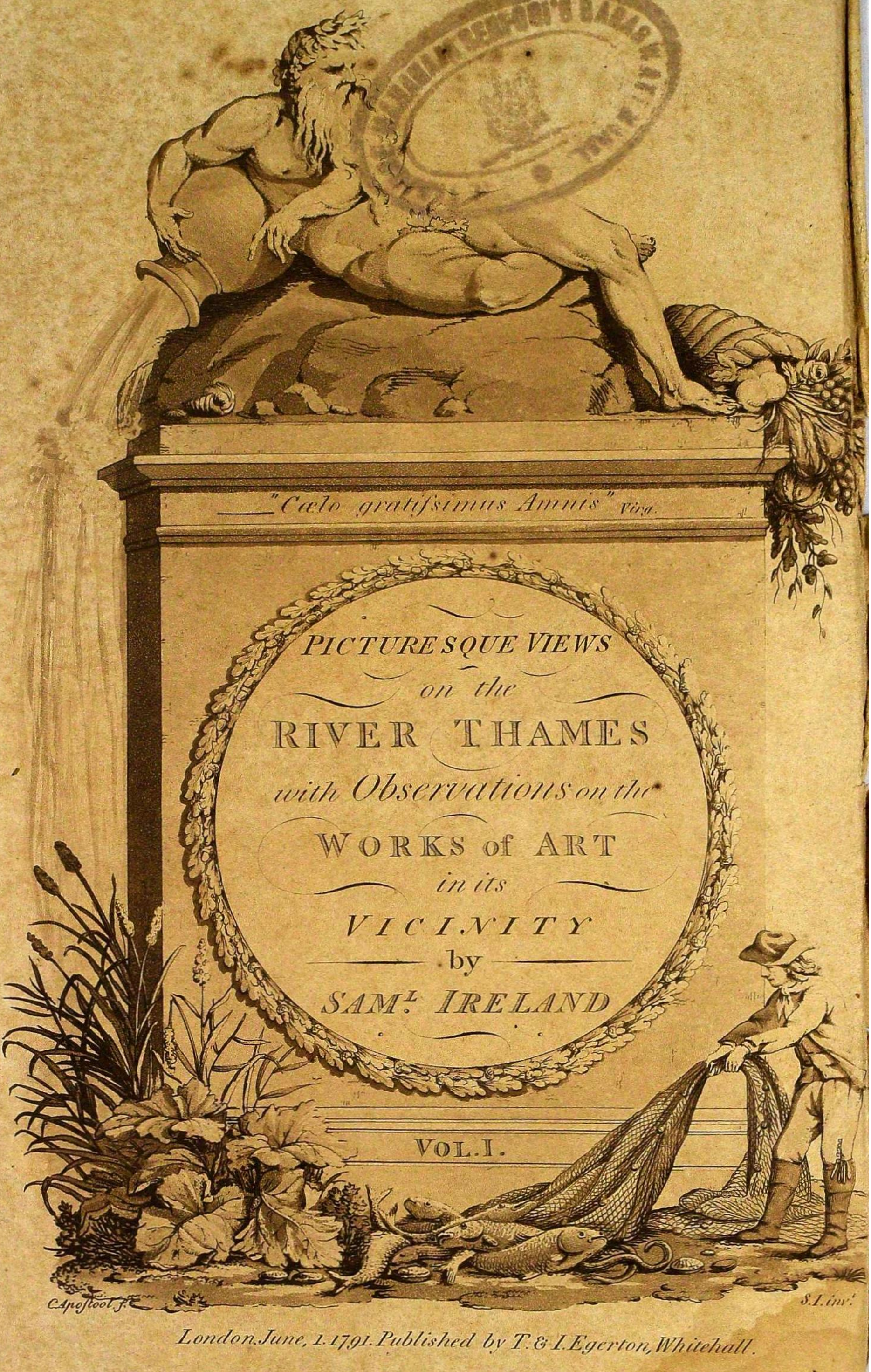
PICTURESQUE VIEWS

ON THE

RIVER THAMES,

&c. &c. &c.



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PICTURESQUE VIEWS

ON THE

RIVER THAMES,

FROM

ITS SOURCE IN GLOCESTERSHIRE

TO

THE NORE;

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

ON

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND OTHER WORKS OF ART

IN ITS VICINITY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY

SAMUEL IRELAND,

AUTHOR of A PICTURESQUE TOUR through HOLLAND, BRABANT and PART of FRANCE.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY T. AND J. EGERTON, WHITEHALL.

MDCCXCII.

TO

EARL HARCOURT.

MY LORD,

SLENDER as my pretensions are to public favor, I have the greater reason to shelter myself under a distinguished patronage.

YOUR Lordship's sanction of my labors will be a powerful recommendation; the true taste which you

you are well known to poſſeſs in the fine arts, and to which you have contributed ſo many elegant ſpecimens, emboldens me, however otherwiſe diffident; and prompts me to hope that my attempt may not prove altogether unworthy of the public eye.

AMIDST the many elegant ſcenes diſplayed on the banks of the river Thames, few are more deſervedly celebrated than thoſe which your Lordſhip enjoys; and which receive additional recommendation from the condeſcenſion with which they are rendered acceſſible.

PLAIN and unadorned language, raiſed ſcarce above the ſtyle of common narrative, may, perhaps, fall ſhort of the dignity of the ſubject; but to have aimed at one more luxuriant, by blending the ſimplicity of proſe with the fanciful ornaments of poetic diction, would have been ſtill farther remote from the true province of this work, which, profeſſing to hold up the moſt faithful mirror to nature, takes as little licenſe with the pencil as the pen.

I FLATTER myſelf, your Lordſhip will not diſapprove the frequent references to antiquity. The ſubject, rich as it is, would have wanted

wanted intereſt without them; and your partiality to that ſource of information will beſides give farther ſanction to my purſuit.

I have the Honor,

My Lord,

To ſubſcribe myſelf,

With great Reſpect,

Your Lordship's

Very obliged and obedient Servant,

SAM$^{L.}$ IRELAND.

NORFOLK-STREET,
STRAND,
Jan. 12th, 1792.

PRE-

PREFACE.

ENCOURAGED by the very favorable reception which the public has given to a Pictureſque Illuſtration of a Tour on the Continent, the author of this work has been induced to gratify a wiſh long ſince formed, of attempting to diſplay the rich ſcenery of his own country, a country where nature and art are ſo happily combined, as to adorn and fertilize even its remoteſt parts,

and to have not only afforded the means of happineſs, but added luxury to the enjoyments of a great people.

Upon entering into ſuch a diſcuſſion, the object that naturally firſt engages our attention, is the river Thames, a ſcene of induſtry, and a ſource of opulence, to which we owe ſo much both in convenience, ſalubrity, and every relative bleſſing that can add to the greatneſs of the firſt commercial city in the world.—Indeed it is rather matter of ſurpriſe, amidſt the numerous publications on the ſubject of picturesque ſcenery, which have lately employed the pen and pencil of our writers and artiſts, that ſo leading and capital a feature

in landſcape ſhould not have caught the eye, and have pre-occupied the powers of ſome one, perhaps, better ſkilled in deſcription, though not leſs ardent in admiration of its picturеſque beauties.

In illuſtrating the preſent purſuit, the bridges are certainly the principal objects, and from their number will naturally exclude that variety of ſcenery, which would otherwiſe more fully have diverſified the ſubject. Such other views, however, as are introduced, have been ſelected as the beſt ſuited to characteriſe the face of the country. They are all from the pencil of the author; (except the view of Strawberry-hill, which is

from a drawing given to him ſeven or eight years ago, by his late valuable friend Francis Groſe) : the principal part of them were taken in the ſummer of 1790, the others from ſketches made ſeveral years ſince, when the idea of this work firſt ſuggeſted itſelf, in conſequence of frequent excurſions on this noble river.

In the deſcriptive part he has aimed at a plain and ſimple ſtyle of narrative, and rejected the technical phraſeology of art, judging that

"Unerring Nature, ſtill divinely bright,
"One clear, unchang'd and univerſal light;
"Life, force, and beauty, muſt to all impart,
"At once the ſource, and end, and teſt of art."

In the hiſtoric parts little more could be done, than to endeavour at a judicious ſelection of ſuch paſſages from the learned as appeared beſt calculated to give information; and in this, as far as the compaſs of his work would admit, he is willing to hope he has been in ſome degree ſucceſsful.

The engravings are executed by the ſame artiſt who was engaged in the former work, and the writer flatters himſelf equally merit a claim to the public approbation.

The ſuperior excellence of the figure of Thames, at the entrance to Somerſet-place, which was modelled by Thomas Banks, Eſq. R. A.

R. A. is a work of ſuch ſuperior excellence, as to render any apology for its introduction here, as a frontiſpiece, unneceſſary.

The maps annexed to theſe volumes are added merely to diſplay the courſe of the river, not as correct geographical delineations of the counties through which it paſſes.

PRINTS

PRINTS

CONTAINED IN

THE FIRST VOLUME.

	Page
FRONTISPIECE	
Thames-head Bridge	1
Entrance to the Tunnell, leading to Sapperton-hill, Gloceſterſhire	9
Eiſey-bridge, Wiltſhire	23
Kempsford Church, &c. Gloceſterſhire	26
St. John's and the adjoining Bridge acroſs the New Cut, near Lechlade	33
Radcote-bridge, Farringdon-hill, &c.	39
New-bridge, Oxfordſhire	47
Stanton Harcourt	48
Enſham-bridge	55
Blenheim Caſtle	61

Remains

	Page
Remains of Henry II.'s Palace as it ſtood in Wood-ſtock-park in 1714	71
Godſtow-bridge, and Remains of the Nunnery	85
Magdalen College and Bridge, Oxford	89
Chriſt Church College, and South-bridge	113
Village of Iffley	115
Earl Harcourt's, at Nuneham Courtenay	119
View at Abingdon, Berks	131
Culham-bridge, near Abingdon	138
Clifton, Oxfordſhire	140
Shillingford-bridge, Berks	143
Wallingford-bridge, &c.	147
Goreing, Oxfordſhire	153
Caverſham-bridge	159
Sunning-bridge, &c. Berks	169
Henley-bridge	179
Marlow-bridge, &c.	195
Cliefden Spring, Bucks	206

PIC-

RIVER THAMES from its SOURCE to Maidenhead bridge

Thames-head bridge, &c.

Picturesque Views

ON THE

RIVER THAMES, &c.

SECTION I.

THE source of the Thames, this first of British rivers, is derived from a copious spring, called Thames Head, near the village of Tarlton, about two miles south-west of Cirencester, and is contiguous to the fosse-way leading to Somersetshire. Though I could have wished to have introduced into this work, a view of the source itself, I have yet thought fit to exhibit an adjoining spot

in preference, as forming a better object for the pencil *.

Some writers have asserted, that the source of this river is in the neighbourhood of Cobberly, in Gloucestershire, at a place called Seven-Wells Head; but as the former opinion is most prevalent, I shall date the present enquiry from thence.

The name also of this river has long been matter of controversy, even amongst the learned, on whom we ought to rely; it therefore becomes necessary previously to investigate the various opinions and authorities that have been advanced on the subject. The vulgar appellation it bears above Oxford is Thame-Isis, evidently formed from a combi-

* The engine with sails, which appears in the annexed view, raises water from the head, and by its mechanical power, throws up several tons of water every minute, supplying the Thames and Severn canal.

nation

nation of the words Thame and Iſis; the ſuppoſed conflux of which gave riſe to a poem of ſome eminence, called "The Marriage of Thame and Iſis." How this river obtained the latter name, or at what period, I cannot learn: Stow ſeems to concur in this poetical fiction, and deems every one ignorant who gives the river any other appellation than that of Iſis; but to ſhew that no great reliance is to be placed on his opinion, I will uſe his own words, which are ſo flatly contradictory to themſelves as to invalidate his authority: he ſays, in the fifth chapter of his Survey of London, that "the "Thames beginneth a little above a village "called Winchcomb in Oxfordſhire, and ſtill "increaſing, paſſeth firſt by the univerſity of "Oxford, &c. to London;" and in the next chapter, that the Iſis "goeth unto Thame in "Oxfordſhire," (which is more than fifteen miles below Oxford) "where joining with a "river of the ſame denomination, it loſeth

" the name of Isis or Ouse, and from thence " is called Thamesis all along as it passeth." As Master Stow, therefore, does not seem to understand himself, I must, to clear up this disputed point, refer to Camden, on whose authority I am inclined to rely. He says, " it " plainly appears, that the river was always " called Thames, or Tems, before it came " near the (town of) Thame;" and that in several ancient " charters, granted to the ab- " bey of Malmesbury, as well as that of " Enesham; and from the old deeds relating " to Cricklade," it is never considered under any other name, than that of Thames. To prove this assertion, he instances, that " in " an ancient charter granted to abbot Ad- " helm, there is mention made of certain " lands upon the east part of the river— " cujus vocabulum TEMIS, juxta vadum " qui appellatur Summerford; and this ford " is in Wiltshire." He likewise says, it no where occurs under the name of Isis.

ALL

All hiſtorians, who mention the incurſions of Ethelwold into Wiltſhire, A. D. 905, or of Canute, in 1016, concur likewiſe in the ſame opinion, by declaring, "that they paſ-" ſed over the Thames at Cricklade." There is ſtill further reaſon for confiding in theſe authorities, as it is not probable, that the Thames Head, an appellation by which the ſource has uſually been diſtinguiſhed, ſhould give birth to a river of the name of Iſis, which river, after having run half its courſe, ſhould reaſſume the name of Thames, the appellation of its parent ſpring.

As to the origin of its name, it may poſſibly be derived from the Saxon Temeſe, or from the Britiſh word Tavuys, which implies a gentle ſtream, and from which many rivers in this iſland derive their appellation; as Tame in Staffordſhire, Teme in Herefordſhire, Tamar in Cornwall, &c.

Having thus briefly, and from the beſt authority adducible, endeavoured to eſtabliſh the name of the river which is the preſent ſubject of diſcuſſion, I flatter myſelf, I ſhall avoid the imputation of blending the hiſtory of two rivers, where I mean only to treat of one—the THAMES.

The great ſupply of water, that ſwells the early courſe of this river, the Thames Head, is occaſioned by the firſt heavy fall of ſnow and rain in the winter ſeaſon, from different parts of the wolds or hills in Glouceſterſhire; which, pouring into the vallies beneath, unites with the ſprings in Kemble Vale, contiguous to the Thames Head.

The village of Kemble, from which this vale takes its name, is finely ſituated on an eminence, and commands a rich extent of ſcenery, happily diverſified by the eaſy wind-

ing

ing of the ftream, which terminates in a faint view of the Oxfordfhire hills.

About a mile below the fource of the river is the firft mill conftructed for grinding corn, which is called Kemble mill; near which the ftream receives confiderable acceffion from feveral fprings iffuing out of the eaftern fide of the wolds, as well as others that flow from Afh coppice, and the vicinity of Somerford; at which place the river may properly be faid to form a conftant current; which, though not more than nine feet wide in the fummer months, yet in the winter feafon becomes fuch a torrent as to overflow the neighbouring meadows for many miles around;

"When the calm river, rais'd with fudden rains,
"Or fnows diffolv'd, o'erflows th' adjoining plains."

In the fummer months, the Thames Head is fo perfectly dry, as to appear no other than

than a large dell, interſperſed with ſtones and weeds.

FROM Somerford the ſtream gently winds its courſe to the village of Aſhton Keynes, and thence to the town of Cricklade, where, being united with the river Churn from Cirenceſter, and other ſtreams from Malmeſbury, Barneſly, and the eaſtern ſide of Wiltſhire, they form unitedly a river ſufficient for the navigation of boats of about ſeven tons burthen.

Entrance to the Tunnell, leading to Sapperton Hill, Glocestershire.

SECTION II.

THE new canal, formed by the junction of the Thames and Severn navigation, from its contiguity to the subject before us, will, I presume, be deemed an object of such importance, as not to be thought irrelevant to the present enquiry.

THIS canal may be considered as the most elaborate and stupendous work of art that, perhaps, any country, has yet accomplished; in uniting two of the noblest rivers in this kingdom. A project was formed more than a century ago to join these rivers, and a survey made by Joseph Moxon, hydrographer to King Charles II. to prove its practicability. The idea is likewise suggested by Mr. Pope, in a letter to the Honorable Mr. Digby, dated

1722, which, as it is written with a ſtrong poetic and lively imagination, I ſhall give in his own words.—" I could paſs whole days
" in only deſcribing the future, and as yet
" viſionary, beauties that are to riſe in
" thoſe ſcenes (in Lord Bathurſt's woods,
" at Cirenceſter) the palace that is to be
" built, the pavilions that are to glitter, the
" colonades that are to adorn them; nay
" more, the meeting of the Thames and
" Severn, which (when the noble owner has
" finer dreams than ordinary) are to be led
" into each others embraces, through ſecret
" caverns of not above twelve or fifteen
" miles, till they riſe and celebrate their
" marriage in the midſt of an immenſe am-
" phitheatre, which is to be the admiration
" of poſterity a hundred years hence: but
" till this deſtined time ſhall arrive, that is
" to manifeſt thoſe wonders, Mrs. Digby
" muſt content herſelf with ſeeing what is at
" preſent

" prefent no more than the fineft wood in
" England."

THAT once diftant period is now arrived, and the happy junction accomplifhed, under the furvey of an able engineer, Mr. Robert Whitworth, in 1782. It may not be improper to mention, that a canal was formed by act of parliament, in 1730, from the Severn to Wallbridge, near Stroud, at which place the prefent work commences: The new canal afcends by Stroud, through the vale of Chalford, to the height of three hundred and forty-three feet, by means of twenty-eight locks, and from thence to the entrance of the tunnel near Sapperton, a diftance of about feven miles three furlongs. The canal is forty-two feet in width at top, and thirty at the bottom; proper warehoufes are conftructed on its banks for the reception of merchandize from the Severn veffels, and convenience of lading the navi-

 gation

gation barges. The canal is continued by a ſubterraneous paſſage or tunnel, excavated beneath Sapperton hill, and under that part of Lord Bathurſt's grounds called Haley wood, making a diſtance of two miles and three furlongs.

THE tunnel, the entrance to which is the ſubject of the view annexed to this ſection, is near fifteen feet in width, and has ſufficient depth of water to navigate barges from ſixty to ſeventy tons burthen; theſe barges are about eighty feet in length, twelve in width, and draw about four feet of water when loaded; hence the canal deſcending one hundred and thirty-four feet, by fourteen locks, joins the Thames at Lechlade, a diſtance of about twenty miles and two furlongs.

THIS work has been atchieved, with immenſe labor and perſeverance, out of a looſe rock of lime and ſtone; and, to ſecure the

water,

water, it is lined throughout with well-tempered clay. Over this canal are many handſome bridges of ſingle arches, particularly that at Thames Head, (as deſcribed in the view prefixed to the firſt ſection,) from whence this canal receives a conſiderable body of water, as well as at Cirenceſter, where it is again ſupplied from the river Churn. Near the ſouth weſt ſide of the town of Cirenceſter a large baſon is conſtructed, with wharfs and warehouſes for the convenience of this navigation. The baſon is ſupplied with water by an aqueduct formed under Lord Bathurſt's pleaſure grounds, which are before his houſe.

In the courſe of this vaſt undertaking the canal from the Severn at Froomlade to Ingleſham, where it joins the river Thames, is a diſtance of more than thirty miles; the expence of which has conſiderably exceeded the ſum of two hundred thouſand pounds, three

three thouſand of which, I am credibly informed by a principal proprietor, have been expended in the gun-powder alone, uſed for the purpoſe of blowing up the rock.

THIS immenſe work was completed on the 14th of November, 1789, within a period of leſs than ſeven years from its commencement. Nor is it an eaſy taſk to deſcribe the various advantages that ſeem likely to be derived from its extenſive communication with the different parts of Wales, Briſtol, Glouceſter, Shrewſbury, &c.; its more inland navigation, as connected with the canals of Staffordſhire and Worceſterſhire, and its immediate intercourſe with the Thames from Lechlade towards Oxford, Wallingford, &c. to London: ſo various, and ſo important, are the benefits derived from hence, both to the individual and the public, the inhabitant who receives with little expence the produce of the moſt diſtant quarter of the iſland de-

livered

livered at his own door, and the traveller who paſſes ſmoothly and ſecurely by it through roads no longer cut to pieces with heavy carriages, that it is much to be wiſhed this work may prove as beneficial to the ſpirited and enterpriſing proprietors, as it is a bleſſing to more than the countries through which it paſſes.

THE courſe of this canal having brought me to earl Bathurſt's grounds, ſo highly famed for their many beauties in point of natural ſituation, as well as artificial culture; I ſhould deem myſelf deficient in obſervation were I to paſs them unnoticed. This extenſive park is more than twelve miles in circumference; and is interſected by four grand viſtos, each of which forms a happy termination of extenſive ſcenery. Approaching the houſe, the view towards Cirenceſter combines a fine aſſemblage of buildings, not amuſing only, but very ſtriking to the imagination

gination at firſt ſight; yet the tower of a Gothic church riſing ſo immediately over a modern manſion, and ſeeming to form a part of it, upon a more deliberate view preſents to the mind rather an heterogeneous maſs, or accidental form of beauty, than ſuch a correct model, as would be proper to record by the pencil. It ſeems incongruous as the fabulous centaur, or as

> " Humano capiti cervicem pictor equinam
> " Jungere ſi velit."

In paſſing theſe grounds, the mind naturally reverts to that Auguſtan period, in which ſome of the brighteſt literary characters that ever at any one time adorned this country, gave additional ſplendor to this enchanting ſpot.

> " Theſe ſcenes could Addiſon's chaſte notes inſpire:
> " Here Pope harmonious ſtruck his ſilver lyre,
> " Caught 'midſt theſe ſolemn ſhades the glorious plan,
> " To vindicate the ways of God to man."

" Arbuthnot

" Arbuthnot here, and Swift, with uſeful art,
" Rear'd Satire's dreaded ſcourge, or ſteel'd her dart.
" Here, Prior, the Graces form'd thy ſofter lay;
" And taught the moral ſtrains to blameleſs Gay.
" Each pleas'd the maſter's praiſes to engage,
" The fam'd Mæcenas of that happier age!"

The table on which the immortal Pope once reclined, I am informed, has ſince quitted the ſervice of the Muſes, and is now removed to a common alehouſe in the neighbourhood.

The town of Cirenceſter is famed for its antiquity, many evident marks of which are ſtill remaining to prove it was formerly a Roman ſtation, and the fragments of the old walls evince it to have been a place of conſiderable defence, and in ſize not inferior to any town in the county.

As it was not the intention to confine myſelf entirely to a deſcription of pictu-

refque objects on the banks of the Thames, I fhall digrefs a little for the fake of mentioning fome fuperior works of art, which I found at Badminton, the feat of the duke of Beaufort, in my route to Bath; the excellence of fome, and the rare prefervation of others (particularly the gallery of portraits) render them highly meriting the notice of the antiquary and admirer of the arts. Among the portraits, that of John of Gaunt, fourth fon of Edward III. is a fine fpecimen of painting at that early period. The armour in particular is finifhed with exquifite precifion, richly emboffed with gold, and has more the air of a fplendid birth-day fuit, than a covering for defence in battle. The portrait, likewife, of his eldeft fon, the duke of Beaufort, is not inferior to the former.

In this collection is the famous fatirical picture of Fortune, by Salvator Rofa, mentioned in Bernardo Dominici's lives of the Nea-

Neapolitan artifts. It was painted while he was at Rome, and there publickly exhibited at the feaft of St. John, to the great mortification of his brother artifts. This picture is coloured in his beft manner, and replete with fatire, in which the church has no fmall fhare.

THE writings of this great artift were in equal eftimation with his pictures, and from their pointed fatirical allufions, drew forth an equal number of enemies. For one of them, he was driven into exile; and there is an excellent portrait of him by himfelf, in this collection, drawn with a fcroll of paper in his hand, faid to be the fatire for which he was banifhed.

HERE is likewife a beautiful portrait of that exquifite artift, Guido, from his own pencil in a large high-crowned hat and black drapery; and one of Cornelius Janfon, by

himſelf, in a ſingular attitude, with the two fore-fingers of the right hand in an upright poſture. I mention theſe pictures, as well for their great excellence, as that it may be a means of procuring prints from them, which I do not remember to have ſeen. Several pictures by Berchem, Teniers, &c. will be found to merit the higheſt encomium.

The cartoon in the chapel, painted in chiaro oſcuro, is certainly the work of a great maſter. The ſubject is the Transfiguration. It is ſaid to be by the hand of Raphael, and, at his interment, to have been ſelected from his other works, and carried on his bier; but I ſuſpect this not to have been the fact, as it is moſt probable the finiſhed picture at Rome would have obtained that ſingular honour.

This cartoon is in ſize about eleven feet by nine, and ſeems to have been originally

much larger; it has ſuffered greatly by time.

THAT this work was not added to the cartoons in the royal collection, is a circumſtance much to be lamented; an offer of three thouſand pounds is reported to have been made for that purpoſe, but refuſed by its noble owner.

RETURNING towards Cirenceſter, I cannot avoid mentioning the church at Tetbury, a modern ſtructure recently finiſhed from a plan of Mr. Hiorne, of Warwick, which for taſte and ſimplicity in the Gothic, without redundancy of parts, is the happieſt ſelection I remember to have any where ſeen.

SEC-

Eisey-bridge, Wiltshire.

SECTION III.

HAVING, in the firſt ſection, aimed at a brief account of the courſe of the Thames from its ſource to the town of Cricklade, I ſhall reſume the ſubject at that place, the name of which has given riſe to much controverſy.

A GREEK ſchool was anciently founded here, or rather reſtored, by the learned archbiſhop of Canterbury, Theodorus, and afterwards tranſlated to Oxford; from this ſchool the name of Greeklade is ſaid to have been given to the town: but Camden thinks, and with more probability, that it derives its appellation from the Britiſh Cerigwlâd, i. e. a ſtoney country, which epithet well agrees with the nature of its ſoil.

The town was formerly of much repute; at preſent neither the derivation of its name, or its former conſequence, entitle it to much notice; it being only remarkable for a very large pariſh church—for the mode by which they convey their dead for interment, (which is by faſtening the coffin on the front of a poſt-chaiſe)—and for the proviſion, which, while they had the power, they were accuſtomed to make for the living, by a more high-priced, than conſtitutional, eſtimate of their borough franchiſes.

At Cricklade we found the ſtream ſo ſhallow, as not to be in many places more than fourteen inches deep, and ſo overgrown with weeds, as to be rendered ſcarcely navigable even for the ſmalleſt fiſhing-boat.

In purſuing the courſe of the ſtream, about a mile below this town, we find the firſt bridge, which is conſtructed of wood, with

a hand-

a hand-rail merely for the ſafety of foot-paſſengers. The ſketch of it annexed to this ſection, may ſerve to point out the humble ſtate of this noble river and its appendages near its ſource, as contraſted with its more expanded courſe and magnificent decorations as it approaches the capital, where

" With rapid courſe it ſeeks the ſacred main,
" And fattens, as it runs, the fruitful plain."

From this wooden bridge, which is called Eiſey bridge, the town of Cricklade forms a pleaſing termination of proſpect acroſs the intervening meadows, which though flat, and rather unintereſting, are happily relieved and interſected by the winding current of the ſtream. Below Water Eaton, there is little variation of proſpect, till we reach Caſtle Eaton, where there is a ſmall bridge and water-mill, ſo pleaſingly combined with other objects of rural and unaffected ſcenery, as

to render them worthy the pencil of the firſt artiſt.

Approaching Kempsford, a large village in Glouceſterſhire, the river quits Wiltſhire, and again enters its native county, dividing it from Berkſhire at Ingleſham, where the ſcenery is greatly improved, by the combination of an ancient Gothic church, with its uſual appendage, a comfortable vicarage-houſe: theſe are pleaſantly ſituated on a verdant ſlope, riſing from the margin of the Thames, which, though ſhallow, is yet beautifully tranſparent, and, as it ripples in its courſe, diſplays a ſheltered and gravelly bed, where the neighbouring cattle luxuriantly baſk themſelves in the noon-tide ſun. Within this pleaſant retreat the Vicarage, we found, not the vicar, but his locum tenens, an humble Welch curate, with a wife and two children, exiſting on twenty-five pounds a year,

Kempsford Church, &c. Gloucestershire

a year, and honeſtly confeſſing he had, on this ſide the grave, no wiſh beyond the addition of ten pounds to his ſalary; and could he have obtained this, he might have ſaid with Swift

——— "Theſe things in *my* poſſeſſing
"Are better than the biſhop's bleſſing."

Surely if the wiſh of this honeſt curate be ſincere, and his morals equal to his ſimplicity, he cannot fall very ſhort of the character of a primitive chriſtian.

ADJOINING to the church, which is a venerable old ſtructure, there lately ſtood a very extenſive manſion-houſe, once occupied by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter. He reſided here ſome time, but taking a diſlike to the place, on account of the unfortunate death of his only ſon (which happened here) he granted the manor of Kenemeres, Kenemeresford, or Kempsford, with other lands,

to the collegiate church of St. Mary the Lefs, in the caftle of Leicefter, for the maintenance of an hofpital called Newark, or New Work, of which he was the founder, 28 of Ed. III.

Within the tower of the church, on the capitals of the pillars, are the arms of this duke, of the earl of Gloucefter, and of king Alfred; and on the outfide of the church door is nailed a large horfe-fhoe, faid to have belonged to Henry IV. This ancient manfion has, by order of its poffeffor, lord Coleraine, been levelled to the ground, within the laft fix years, when the materials were purchafed by ——— Loveden, Efq; of Burfcott Park, with which he has erected an elegant modern houfe.

The out-offices and grand entrance to this extenfive building are yet ftanding, and are occupied as farm-houfes.

About three miles from this village is ſituated the town of Fairford, rendered famous by its church and painted windows. Its founder, John Tame, was a conſiderable merchant, and in the fifteenth century commanded a large veſſel, in which he captured a Spaniſh ſhip bound for Rome. The cargo, among other valuables, conſiſted of a great quantity of painted glaſs, intended for his holineſs the pope; this part of the prize he brought to his patrimonial eſtate, where he erected the church, a handſome ſtructure, purpoſely to depoſit theſe paintings, which conſiſt of twenty-eight in number, and are intended to illuſtrate ſome ſtriking paſſages in the Old and New Teſtament. They are handed down to us as the works of Albert Durer, which, contrary to the received opinion, I by no means credit. The original deſigns may poſſibly have been by him; if ſo, much of their excellence has been loſt by their being copied on the glaſs, as in point of draw-

drawing they are very defective. The figures of the prophets are in every respect, in my estimation, by much the best part of the work. On the whole, though there is much clearness and brilliancy in the colouring, yet they are much inferior to what I expected, from the high eulogiums I had often heard on their merit.

THE river from Kempsford increases considerably in width as it approaches the town of Lechlade, a distance of about six miles, in which course are several weirs, and one large wooden bridge at Hannington, from whence Highworth church and village appear in the distance, forming a pleasing object.

ABOUT three miles below Hannington is Inglesham, where the Severn canal unites with the Thames, which is there considerably improved, by being cleared of its weeds and other impediments to navigation, through

the attention of the public-ſpirited proprietors in this undertaking.

LECHLADE is a large town in Glouceſterſhire, ſituated on the confines of Berkſhire and Oxfordſhire. The ground on which it ſtands was formerly called the Lade, from which appellation, conjoined with that of the contiguous river Lech, it derives its compound name, Lechlade. That river here empties itſelf into the Thames, which, at this place, is ſo much encreaſed by the junction of the rivers Colne and Churn, as to be capable of navigating veſſels from ninety to an hundred tons burthen.

IN a meadow, near Lechlade, was lately diſcovered a large ſubterraneous building, ſuppoſed to have been a Roman bath; it is near fifty feet in length, forty in breadth, and four feet in height; and is ſupported by

pillars

pillars of brick, and curiouſly inlaid with ſtones of variegated colours.

In the lower church-yard, at Cricklade, is a curious ancient croſs, of which, though I have not been able to procure the hiſtory, the annexed ſketch will give ſome idea.

SEC-

St John's, and the adjoining bridge, across the new cut, near Lechlade, Glocestershire.

SECTION IV.

THE river, from Lechlade, though conſiderably improved, has yet required the aſſiſtance of art to aid its navigation; a ſpacious cut, therefore, has been formed for that purpoſe, a little below the town, which runs nearly parallel with the old river, and contiguous to St. John's Bridge. A handſome arch is thrown acroſs this new cut, which with the old ſtructure adjoining, forms no unpleaſing object; the ſpire of Lechlade Church appearing over the bridge, and the ſingular circumſtance of two navigable ſtreams coming ſo nearly in contact, ſo highly enrich the ſcenery, as not to be overlooked by the eye of the pictureſque traveller.

THE old bridge is of great ſtrength and antiquity; but I have not been able to pro-

cure any information of the period in which it was built.

About half a mile below the bridge, is the village of Burſcott, on the confines of Berkſhire, near which is a new lock and pound, juſt finiſhed, which has the appearance of being well conſtructed, both for convenience, and diſpatch of buſineſs. On an eminence, at ſome diſtance, is Burſcott Park; in which is erected the manſion of Mr. Loveden, from the remains of Kempſford houſe, as mentioned in the laſt ſection: the mere value of the lead found on this houſe amounted to five hundred pounds, for which ſum the whole of the materials were purchaſed.

Mr. Loveden has added greatly to the beauty of his ſituation, by introducing into his park, at a conſiderable expence, a ſmall canal, from the body of the river, which

the

the conſtant attention of that gentleman has alſo conſiderably improved, by means of embankments, and the removal of various obſtructions. The growth, however, of the weeds with which it is over-run, though unpleaſant to the eye, and an impediment to the navigation, is certainly the means of preſerving many of its finny inhabitants from the ravage of the poacher. The increaſe of weeds, it muſt likewiſe be obſerved, ſerves to reſtrain the current, and thereby keep up a greater body of water: their growth, as well as that of all ſubaqueous plants, is well known to have an increaſe proportionate to that of vegetation in the open air, after a ſhower of rain.

REMARKING that all the watermen, and perſons concerned in the navigation, have an idea, and boldly aſſert, that the river, in this vicinity, freezes firſt at the bottom; and that they frequently find iſicles and con-

gelations adhering to the keels and bottoms of their boats, when there is no appearance of ice on the ſurface; and feeling myſelf not ſatisfied with this trite and vulgar opinion, I am induced to refer for a more philoſophical and convincing proof of the aſſertion; when in Dr. Plott I find the following obſervation:—"That the water-"men frequently meet the ice-meers, or "cakes of ice, in their riſe, and ſometimes "in the under-ſide including ſtones and "gravel, brought with them ab imo;" and he obſerves, "it is conſonant to reaſon, "for that congelations come from the con-"flux of ſalts, before diſperſed at large, "is as plain as the vulgar experiment of "freezing a pot by the fire; and that in-"duration and weight come alſo from "thence, ſufficiently appears from the great "quantities of them that are always found "in ſtones, bones, teſtaceous, and all other "weighty bodies." He likewiſe ſeems to credit

credit the aſſertion of a perſon who once ſaw a hatchet caſually fall overboard into the river, near Wallingford, which was afterwards brought up and found in one of theſe ice-meers.—As my author ſometimes deals in the marvellous, I ſhall ſuſpend any comment on theſe obſervations.

The ſcenery in this vicinity correſponds with the neglected ſtate of the river, being flat, and very unintereſting, till by various windings of the ſtream, the diſtance expands, and a pleaſing view of Farringdon Hill preſents itſelf, which with the various eaſy ſlopes of the neighbouring hills, aided by the villages of Eaton on the right, and Kempſcott on the Oxfordſhire ſide of the river, happily relieve the eye, and convey no unpleaſing idea to the admirers of the native beauties of Engliſh landſcape.

Radcote-bridge, Farringdon-hill &c.

SECTION V.

RADCOTE Bridge next prefents itfelf to view, it is the oldeft ftructure we have yet paffed; but refpecting what period it was raifed, the common fources of information have failed.

FROM authentic accounts it appears, that a caufeway was certainly began in the neighbourhood, as early as William the Conqueror, moft probably by Robert D'Oyley, who came over with him, and was a very diftinguifhed man in his day; he built Oxford Caftle, and appears to have been concerned in another work of the fame kind, leading from Friar Bacon's ftudy, at Oxford.

THIS bridge and its vicinity are rendered famous by a confiderable battle fought in the

the reign of Richard II. an. 1387, between his highly honored favorite Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Marquis of Dublin, and Duke of Ireland, and the discontented barons, among whom were Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, the Earls of Derby, Warwick, &c. in which the troops of the favorite were routed, and he, by swimming across the river, effected his escape. In the poem of Thame and Isis the fact is thus recorded:

" Here Oxford's hero, famous for his boar——
" While clashing swords upon his target found,
" And show'rs of arrows from his breast rebound,
" Prepar'd for worst of fates, undaunted stood,
" And urg'd his beast into the rapid flood:
" The waves in triumph bore him, and were proud
" To sink beneath their honourable load."

After this defeat he fled the realm, and died in banishment, at Louvain, about five years afterwards, as it is said, in consequence of a wound received from the tusks of a boar,

boar, in the chace of that animal; his body was, three years after his death, brought to England by order of the king, and at his expence, was with great ſolemnity interred at Colne, in Eſſex. The family creſt of the Veres, Earls of Oxford, was a boar.

About a mile diſtant from the bridge, is Farringdon Hill, a beautiful eminence, which is terminated by a ſmall grove ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance, from the different points, in the various windings of the river; it derives its name from the neighbouring town of Farringdon, and riſes with an eaſy aſcent from the vale of White Horſe, beneath; which vale takes its name from the ſuppoſed figure of a white horſe in chalk, which, if ever it had reality, is probably much reſtored by the cuſtom of weeding it at ſtated periods; the popular opinion runs, that it was formed in commemoration of a victory obtained by Alfred over the Danes;

by others it is ſaid to have been marked out by Hengiſt, who certainly bore on his ſtandard the figure of a white horſe; ſomething of this kind is ſtill to be ſeen in Dorſetſhire, near Dorcheſter, repreſenting the figure of a giant and his club.

The hill commands an extenſive and richly diverſified ſcene, ſpreading over part of Berkſhire, Oxfordſhire, Glouceſterſhire, and Wiltſhire, as well as of the valley beneath. Between Radcote Bridge and Farringdon Hill ſtands an elegant houſe, built by Henry James Pye, Eſq. the preſent laureate, (now occupied by Mr. Hallet): the ſpot is happily choſen, and he has celebrated its beauties in a poem of much merit. At a ſmall diſtance from Radcote Bridge runs the canal which leads to Abingdon.

Useful to the commerce of the country, and laudable as the enterprize of forming

navigable canals all over the kingdom, muſt be acknowledged to be, it is ſtill with ſome regret we view the old ſtream falling almoſt into total neglect and diſuſe. Such, however, in this neighbourhood during the ſummer months, is the ſituation of this noble river, which is then ſhallow in water, and overgrown with oziers and weeds; its locks and wiers are falling faſt into decay; and in many places we find only a few old timbers remaining, to mark where ſuch aids to navigation were once thought of utility. In the winter ſeaſon the river, which hereabouts conſiderably overflows the adjacent meadows, is much augmented by the addition of the Windruſh, a large brook, which flowing from the Cotſwold hills, enters Oxfordſhire near Burford, and paſſing by Witney, joins the Thames to the ſouth-weſt of the Evenlode, another river, which, riſing near Stow, in the wold in Glouceſterſhire, likewiſe falls

into the Thames, near Caſſington, north-weſt of Oxfordſhire.

Of Burford, Dr. Plott remarks, that within his memory a whimſical ceremony was obſerved there of making yearly a large dragon, and carrying it up and down the town, with much jollity, on Midſummer eve, to which they added a huge giant of proportionate ſize. This cuſtom, he conjectures, was to commemorate a victory obtained by the Weſt Saxons over Ethelbald, King of the Mercians, about the year 750, at a place contiguous to the town, ſtill called Battle Edge. On the banner of the Mercian king was depicted a golden dragon.

It is obſerved of the river Windruſh, that it is of ſo nitrous a quality, and ſo impregnated with that abſterſive ſalt, that thence the blanketting, manufactured at Witney, acquires

acquires a degree of whitenefs fuperior to that made in any other part of the kingdom.

Pursuing the courfe of the river, on the right appears Buckland, the feat of Sir Robert Throckmorton—a modern ftructure fituated on an eminence. This manfion was built by its prefent poffeffor, near the fite of the former edifice, part of which ftill remains. Its fituation is truly picturefque, embowered amidft a thicket of ftately trees, and commands a moft enchanting view of the river beneath, and an extenfive diftance, which though flat, highly abounds with the richeft luxuriance of nature.

The windings of the river here, in its courfe, form many pleafing breaks in the landfcape; and if the fpire of a church, as has been frequently obferved, gives a happy termination to village fcenery, that of Bampton claims peculiar notice, as it is a perpetual

tual object from the river for many miles, both above and below it. The remark made by Charles the Second, on that of Harrow on the Hill, which, from its conspicuous situation, he stiled the visible church, will not ill apply to that of Bampton. Approaching the villages of Hinton and Longworth, the Witham Hills, in Oxfordshire, are most happily combined, and so beautifully soften into each other, as to form a distance worthy the pencil of Claude le Lorraine; and it is to be regretted that the noble city of Oxford is so concealed from the eye, as not to lend its aid towards giving a kind of classical finishing to that scenery in nature, which Claude labored so much to perfect from art and imagination.

New-bridge. Oxfordshire.

SECTION VI.

AS we approach towards New Bridge, about four miles farther, the ſcenery becomes more confined, and the ſtream much narrower; yet from the immenſe piers or pointed ſterlings, the fall, in the winter months, may be ſuppoſed to be amazingly rapid. The bridge is a plain and ſimple ſtructure, in the Gothic ſtile, and of great antiquity, but no appearance of date; it has on one ſide the letter O. and on the other a B. in Roman characters, to denote the diviſion of the counties of Oxford and Berks. The bridge is about two miles from Kingſton Inn, in the high road to Witney.

WITH a flat, confined, and rather uninteresting ſcene, the ſtream ſtill purſues its humble courſe towards Bablac Hythe, a little

little below which the face of the country wears a more agreeable aſpect; the river expands, and becomes a clear pellucid ſtream, beautifully enriched with verdure; and the grazing cattle on its margin, give a happy idea of that landſcape we are accuſtomed to view on the banks of the Thames, nearer the capital. The majeſtic remains of Stanton Harcourt, (the ancient ſeat of the Harcourts,) preſent a venerable pile of building, at the diſtance of about two miles, on the Oxfordſhire ſide of the river. On a nearer approach, its conſequence is not diminiſhed; it is continually receiving the foſtering aid of its noble poſſeſſor; who, with a knowledge of the modern elegancies of building, and refinements of art, is not unmindful of the precious remains of antiquity. The noble family of the Harcourts, it is well known, are deſcended from the Harcourts in Normandy, who have been in poſſeſſion of this manſion for near ſix hundred years.

The

Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire.

The firſt barony was granted to Sir Simon Harcourt, Lord High Chancellor, in the reign of Queen Ann, who obtained this title of Baron Harcourt, of Stanton Harcourt. The earldom was created in 1749. Much of this noble ſtructure was pulled down by the late Earl. The kitchen of this building is of great antiquity, and ſingularly conſtructed; it is a ſpacious ſquare room; and though a kitchen without a chimney, beneath the eaves of the roof are ſhutters contrived to give vent to the ſmoke. It ſeems to be the opinion of the learned in antiquity, that the windows, from their form, were inſerted about the time of Henry the Fourth. An old writer obſerves, " it " is either a kitchen within a chimney, or a " kitchen without one." The inſide of the chapel, which is no longer in uſe, was a private oratory for the family, and remains with its painted and gilded ornaments in the ceiling, in a tolerable ſtate of preſervation.

In the great hall, which joined to the chapel, was formerly much ſtained glaſs, on which were depicted the different quarterings borne by the Harcourts, and alſo the portraits and armorial bearings of ſeveral perſons habited like warriors, who were of this ancient family. This glaſs has been lately removed, to prevent its deſtruction.

Mr. Pope ſeems not to have been ſo good an antiquary as a poet; for in one of his letters, he mentions a pane of glaſs in this apartment, as a valuable antique, which, upon viewing at Lord Harcourt's houſe in town, clearly appears to be a forgery, as the *character* of the letters and figures of the date, "A° Dni 1.3.4.7." is evidently more modern. In the tower of this chapel, which is acceſſible by a winding ſtair-caſe, are three apartments; the upper of theſe is ſtill called Pope's room, from his having occupied it as a ſtudy, during a whole ſummer

which

which he paſſed in this manſion. Here he finiſhed his tranſlation of the fifth book of the Iliad, which circumſtance he has inſcribed, with a diamond, on a pane of red glaſs, carefully preſerved by Earl Harcourt; and which he has politely favoured me with the uſe of, to form from thence a fac ſimile.

In the year 1718
ALEXANDER POPE
finiſh'd here the [illegible]
fifth Volume of HOMER

IN the pariſh church, which is adjoining, on a marble tablet is the epitaph written by Pope, on the two lovers, John and Sarah Drew, who were ſtruck dead by lightening in an adjoining field, during the reſidence of our poet at this place. Here likewiſe are ſeveral very curious monuments, one in the

 ſouth

ſouth aiſle, particularly deſerving attention, of a Margaret Byron, wife to Sir Robert Harcourt, who was ſent over to Rouen, in Normandy, to receive Margarete of Anjou, Queen of Henry VI. in 1445; and, for the various eminent ſervices rendered to his Sovereign and his country, received the honor of the garter about the year 1463; he is lying in armour, with the mantle of the garter thrown over him; and by him, his lady, who has likewiſe the mantle of the order, with the garter above the left arm, with the motto,

"HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE."

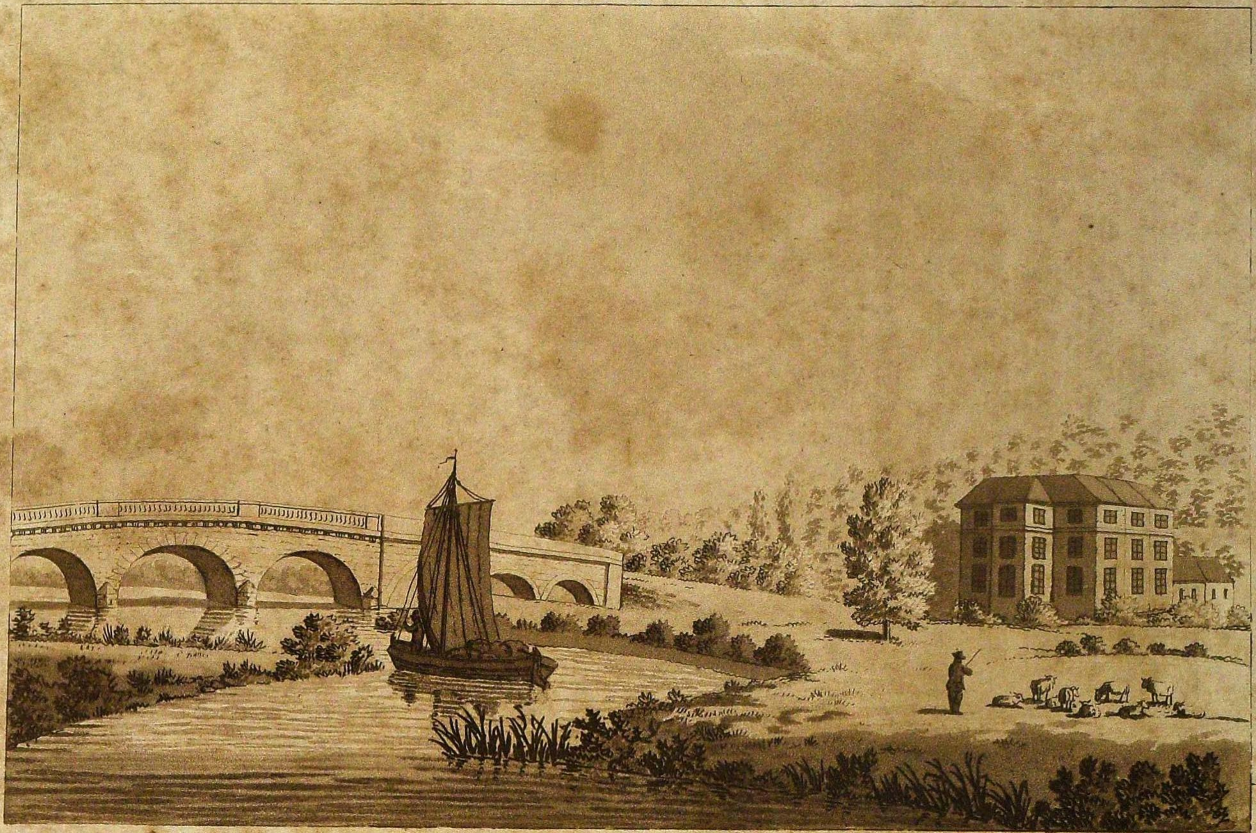
ANNEXED to the end of this ſection, is a ſketch of this lady's figure, from the monument, which, I preſume, will not be unacceptable to the admirer of antiquity, as there are but two other inſtances known of ladies wearing the inſignia of the garter; one of which

which is in the church of Ewelm, in this county, of Alice, daughter of Thomas Chaucer, wife to William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk; the other of Conſtance, daughter of John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, and Duke of Exeter, firſt married to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and after, to Sir John Gray, Knight of the Garter, in the reign of Henry V. and Earl of Tankerville, in Normandy. Her monument is in the church of St. Catherine, near the Tower, but quite defaced.

At Stanton Harcourt is likewiſe a handſome monumental figure of Sir Robert Harcourt, who was ſtandard-bearer to Henry VII. at the battle of Boſworth Field; and alſo Sheriff for the county of Oxford: in the ſame reign he was made Knight of the Bath, at the creation of Henry, Duke of York, afterwards Henry VIII.

These monuments are finely preſerved, and have been lately reſtored with much care; they are good ſpecimens of the monumental ſculpture of the times, as well as the perſonal decorations and habiliments at that period in uſe.

SEC-



Ensham-bridge. Oxon.

SECTION VII.

FROM New Bridge, at the diſtance of about ſeven miles, we reach the ancient village of Enſham, near which is an elegant bridge of ſtone, conſiſting of three arches, erected about 15 years ſince, by Lord Abingdon, whoſe liberality and public ſpirit have, I am credibly informed, been amply repaid by the revenue derived from this undertaking. The building at the extremity of the bridge was intended for an inn; but, though provided with all proper accommodation and out-buildings, has not proved ſo fortunate a ſpeculation, having never yet, in any way, been occupied.

THE ſituation of this bridge is truly picturesque: the river conſiderably expands itſelf, and beautifully meanders amidſt the neigh-

neighbouring meadows, fertile in paſture, and happily ſcreened by the contiguous hills, which form a gentle ſlope towards its margin. On the Oxfordſhire ſide, the various breaks in the diſtant ſcenery, the happy combination of village objects, and tinkling of the diſtant folds, ſeem to give an additional beauty and ſerenity to the landſcape, in the minds of thoſe who chance to trace this ſpot, in the cloſe of a genial ſummer evening.

The village of Enſham, whoſe Gothic tower adorns the neighbouring ſcene, is a place of great antiquity, and in times as far remote as the charter of King Etheldred, is termed "a famous place." A ſmall part of the ruins of the abbey is ſtill remaining: it was endowed, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Benedict, about the year 1005. It received conſiderable benefactions and repairs in the reign of Henry I.; and, at the

diſſolution of other religious houſes, in the year 1539, fell into the rapacious hands of Henry VIII.

" Who having ſpent the treaſures of his crown,
" Condemns their luxury to feed his own:——
" Thus he the church at once protects and ſpoils;
" But Princes ſwords are ſharper than their ſtyles."

THESE remains give but a faint idea of its former extent and magnificence. A ſingular cuſtom, of very ancient date, is recorded of the royalty of Enſham:—It was a privilege formerly allowed to the town's-people, or, rather to the church, on Whit-Monday—to cut down, and bring away (wherever the churchwardens pleaſed to mark it out by giving the firſt chop) as much timber as could be drawn by men's hands into the abbey yard; whence, if they could draw it out again, notwithſtanding all the impediments that could be given by the ſervants of the abbey, it was then their own. It

ſeems a goodly kind of fraud enough, to uſe the labours and exertions of a whole village, in dragging a ſupply of fuel, the property of the public, into the abbey, only to make a ſcramble for the purpoſe of getting it out again; nor is there reaſon to ſuppoſe that much of it was ever reſtored to the people of the town, after having once been in the clutches of the good fathers, who, doubtleſs, were not wanting in ways and means to accompliſh what could not be atchieved by force; as Prior obſerves of the lion's ſkin, which being too ſhort

"Was lengthen'd by the fox's tail,
"And art ſupplied where ſtrength *might* fail."

FROM Enſham to Woodſtock is a pleaſant ride of about four miles; and here, I perſuade myſelf, that the nature of the ſubject will be thought a ſufficient apology for digreſſing a little from my regular path.

THE

The varied beauties of nature in its vicinity, aided by a combination of all that is ſublime and magnificent in the works of art, naturally call forth the utmoſt degree of attention from the curious, and may, at leaſt, tend to evince to foreigners, into whoſe hands this work may fall, that England is as rich in the choiceſt production of the fine arts, as any other country in Europe; and that Blenheim Caſtle, firſt raiſed as a monument of Britiſh gratitude, in reward of Britiſh valour, is now equally celebrated as a repoſitory of whatever is ſplendid and elegant.

Blenheim Castle.

SECTION VIII.

FROM Woodſtock the grand entrance to Blenheim caſtle is through a magnificent triumphal arch, raiſed to the memory of John, Duke of Marlborough, by Sarah his Ducheſs. It is from this diſtance the ſtately pile is moſt happily viewed; its various towers, riſing into the horizon, beautifully break the maſſy and more ponderous form it wears on a nearer approach. The verdure of the ſwelling lawn on which it ſtands, the ſpacious and eaſy ſlope inclining towards the rich valley below, aided by a fine expanſe of water, wearing the appearance of a noble river, terminated by a ſpacious ſtone bridge (the center arch of which is of ſuperior dimenſions to the famed Rialto, at Venice, being a hundred and one feet) with a happy aſſemblage of rich groves

and plantations in the diftance, form a beautiful coup d'œil, furpaffing any thing I remember to have feen in this or any other country.

The creation of this lake or river was the work of the famous Brown, who has been heard to boaft, "that the Thames would "never forgive him for what he had done "at Blenheim." He has, at any rate, taken away part of the fting of the following epigram, applied to the firft Duke, who erected this bridge:

"The lofty bridge his high ambition fhews,
"The ftream an emblem of his bounty flows."

The brevity of the plan on which the prefent work is conducted, renders it impoffible to do juftice to the fcenery; but the annexed view may be confidered as a faithful hint of the fuperior excellence of its natural fituation. Approaching nearer to this ftately

pile,

pile, its architectural defects will, to the discriminating eye, become more conſpicuous. Neither the taſte nor ſtyle are ſuch as are reconcilable with the principles of either Vitruvius or Palladio, yet what it wants in elegance is amply atoned for in ſtrength, and that ponderous and maſſy ſtyle, for which it has incurred ſo much cenſure, may, from the idea of its durability, at leaſt be tolerated, while it bears laſting teſtimony, that Vanbrugh built, as Britons fought,

"Not for an age, but for all time."

I SHALL forbear further obſervation on this noble ſtructure, on which ſo much has been already written, and only remark on the tranſcendancy of its internal decorations, which combined with ſo much true judgment and exquiſite taſte, render it at preſent, the firſt aſſemblage of the works of art in this kingdom.

To

To enumerate all the pictures in this superb collection would be superfluous, to pass them over in silence highly reprehensible. The best works of Rubens, and in the highest preservation, are here selected, with much judgment and princely munificence: among those in the east drawing-room is a Bacchanalian subject, in which the heads of the woman and boys eating grapes exhibit a brilliant specimen of the rich and animated colouring of that great master.

In the grand cabinet is a picture of Christ blessing the children, in which is introduced the artist's own portrait.

The Saviour's return from Egypt, and Lot's departure out of Sodom, presented to the Duke by the city of Antwerp, are each highly objects of admiration to the eye of the connoisseur; and of the latter it may be said, that Antwerp, though rich in the

works

works of this great maſter, could not have ſelected one, by which they could have better teſtified their reſpect and veneration.

The Catherine of Medicis, in black drapery, is a chef d'œuvre in portrait of Rubens; the clear colouring of the head and richneſs of the ſatin are both inimitable: and the portraits of the wife and child of this artiſt, preſented to the Duke by the city of Bruſſels, are ſtill further proofs of his excellence in the art, as well as a teſtimony borne by the firſt city in Flanders, to the forbearing hand of the conqueror, who, in the midſt of victory, nobly upheld his ſhield for the protection of the ſofter elegancies of peace.

I am happy to obſerve, amidſt the excellent productions of that great maſter, notwithſtanding his rich and brilliant ſtyle of colouring, that the works of our Eng-

liſh artiſt, Sir Joſhua, loſe nothing of their original luſtre; I inſtance particularly the portrait of Lady Charlotte Spencer, in the character of a gipſey, and the large and beautiful aſſemblage of portraits in the Marlborough family, both of which ſeem to bid defiance to the hand of Time, as well as detraction.

In the grand cabinet is a picture of the Miraculous Conception, in which a beautiful head of the Virgin, encircled with ſtars, highly merits attention; it is a capital production of Carlo Dolci.

In the great drawing-room, famed for its tapeſtry recording the military exploits of the firſt Duke, is a pair of beautiful pictures enwreathed with flowers, by Rottenhamer, painted with much ſweetneſs, and in a very ſuperior ſtile. Some of the beſt works of Luca Giordano will be found here, particu-

larly

larly the capital picture of Seneca bleeding to death, in which we have only to regret the unpleasantness of the subject, which from its superior excellence gives additional pain to the beholder. To particularize each picture, and to describe every bust and elegant decoration, with which this mansion abounds, would be only giving a repetition of what has been said before on the same subject.

From every window of the noble library, which occupies the whole of the west front, and is full two hundred feet in length, and indeed from every apartment in the mansion, the picturesque eye is highly gratified, with the richly variegated scenery of pendant groves and waving lawns; of distant columns, proudly bearing record to its noble founder's greatness, and of gardens so luxuriant in nature, and so happily improved by art, as to perfectly accord with each other: nor is the eye offended with that

part of the flower-garden from the deſign of Madame Pompadour, at Verſailles, in which, though we find a regularity in the diſpoſition of the parterres, there is yet a ſuperior air of taſte in the tout enſemble.

In the midſt of this extenſive and elegant ſcenery, the mind naturally reverts to a ruder period, when all around aſſumed a ſolitary ſtate, and majeſtic pomp.

The antiquity of Woodſtock Park may be aſcertained, from its having been a royal reſidence, as early as the time of King Alfred, who is ſaid, by old writers, to have tranſlated Boetius de Conſolatione Philoſophiæ, in this place, and who, about the ſame time, in all probability, founded the univerſity of Oxford.—Camden ſays, that in the time of King Ethelred, father of Edward the Confeſſor, it was ſo conſiderable a place, that he there held a convention of the ſtates, and

enacted

enacted ſeveral ſtatutes. In the reign of Henry I. it is conjectured that the park was encloſed by a ſtone wall, not for deer only, but as a receptacle for foreign animals, ſuch as lions, leopards, camels, lynxes, &c. among which a porcupine is mentioned by William of Malmſbury, of which he ſays " hiſpidis " ſetis coopertam, quas in canes inſectantes " naturaliter emittunt." — This extraordinary property of this animal, though correſponding with the vulgar idea at preſent entertained, is, I underſtand, much queſtioned by the more informed naturaliſts of our age.

Henry II. reſided in this palace, where Malcolm, King of Scotland, and Rice, Prince of Wales, came to pay homage to that Monarch in 1164: and here the honour of knighthood was conferred on Jeffery, ſurnamed Plantagenet, the King's ſecond ſon by the fair Roſamond. The Princeſs Elizabeth was confined in this place a conſider-

able

able time, by order of her unnatural ſiſter Queen Mary; in which impriſonment the following lines are ſaid to have been written by her, with charcoal, on the window ſhutter of the apartment: as I do not recollect they are mentioned by Mr. Walpole, in his Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors, I ſhall preſent them with all their defects to the reader, who may perhaps infer, that ſhe was more diſtinguiſhed for her politics than her poetry.

" Oh! Fortune! how thy reſtleſs wavering ſtate
" Hath fraught with cares my troubled witt,
" Wittneſs this preſent priſoner, whither Fate
" Could bear me, and the joys I quit.
" Thou cauſed'ſt the guiltie to be loſed
" From bands wherein are innocents incloſed,
" Cauſing the guiltles to be ſtraites reſerved,
" And freeing thoſe that death well deſerved,
" But by her malice can be nothing wroughte,
" So God ſend to my foes all they have thought."

" Anno Dom. 1555. Elizabeth priſoner."

The

Remains of Henry the 2.[ds] Palace, as it stood in Woodstock-park, in 1714

The remains of this palace, as it ſtood in the year 1714, I have endeavoured in the annexed ſketch to preſerve for the curious in topography, as I cannot learn that it has ever been engraved, nor is it generally known. The original drawing is in the poſſeſſion of the Duke of Marlborough. It is much to be regretted, that the firſt Duke, through the perſuaſion of the Earl of Godolphin, ſhould have ſuffered theſe valuable remains to be razed to the ground, though its relative ſituation, as a picturefque object, it is natural to ſuppoſe, would have preſerved it from depredation.

The ſite on which this palace ſtood, is marked to poſterity by the circumſtance of two ſycamore trees, planted on a fine elevation, at a ſmall diſtance from the bridge. their broad and ſpreading arms ſeem to point to the eye of obſervation and philoſophy the happy ſpot where royalty once reſided, and

at the ſame time to indicate the ſure and fatal ravages either of relentleſs Time, or the equally deſtructive effects of a Gothic and taſteleſs mind.

In this park was born the father of English poetry, Geoffry Chaucer, who reſided here for a conſiderable time, near the area before the grand entrance, upon the ſpot on which a modern houſe now ſtands:

"Here he dwelt——
"For many a chearful day theſe ancient walls
"Have often heard him, while his legends blithe
"He ſang, of love, or knighthood, or the wiles
"Of homely life, through each eſtate and age,
"The faſhions and the follies of the world
"With cunning hand pourtraying."

On a beautiful elevation in this park ſtands the high lodge, commanding one of the moſt extenſive and elegant ſcenes in the kingdom. In this earthly paradiſe, the witty and diſſipated earl of Rocheſter once lived;

and

and in this charming retreat he died, according to Dr. Burnett, full of penitence and remorſe, earneſtly deſirous of exchanging this Elyſian ſcene for one more permanent. Nor does this fact reſt ſolely on the authority of this venerable prelate; for we find it recorded in a very elegant paſtoral by the muſe of a contemporary poet, whoſe effuſions have not often, if ever, been ſo happy.

I.

" AS on his death-bed gaſping Strephon lay,
" Strephon the wonder of the plains,
" The nobleſt of th' Arcadian ſwains;
" Strephon the bold, the witty, and the gay:
" With many a ſigh and many a tear he ſaid,
" Remember me, ye ſhepherds, when I'm dead.

II.

" Ye trifling glories of this world, adieu,
" And vain applauſes of the age;
" For when we quit this earthly ſtage,
" Believe me, ſhepherds, for I tell you true;
" Thoſe pleaſures which from virtuous deeds we have,
" Procure the ſweeteſt ſlumbers in the grave.

III.

" Then ſince your fatal hour muſt ſurely come,
" Surely your heads lie low as mine,
" Your bright meridian ſun decline;
" Beſeech the mighty Pan to guard you home:
" If to Elyzium you would happy flie,
" Live not like Strephon, but like Strephon die."

AMIDST the various beauties of this noble and extenſive park, rich in Arcadian ſcenery, and abounding in ſubject for poetic fiction, one is naturally led to contemplate the hapleſs fate of the frail and beauteous Roſamond, whoſe celebrated name at all times recurs with that of Woodſtock. Little indeed remains now to authenticate the truth of her fatal ſtory, except the faint traces of her famous bath, amidſt the dark receſſes of the groves, about the northern part of the park. Of the bower conſtructed for her reception—nor of the mazy labyrinth through which ſhe might have been conducted to the palace, concealed from the jealous

jealous eye of Queen Eleanor—it is much to be lamented, that no veſtiges are now diſcoverable; nor does even the rudeſt ſketch of the pencil exiſt, to throw any light on this romantic ſubject.

"What art can trace the viſionary ſcenes,
"The flow'ry groves and everlaſting greens,
"The babbling ſounds that mimic Echo plays,
"The fairy ſhade and its eternal maze?"

Certain it is, that at the age of fifteen, the charms of this unfortunate daughter of Lord Clifford attracted the attention of the amo rous Monarch.

The hiſtory of this accompliſhed fair one is too well known to need a repetition. The manner of the Queen's diſcovering her ſecret retreat, and the cauſe of Roſamond's death, are variouſly related. By ſome it is ſaid, that ſitting withoutſide her bower, to take the air, while buſied at her work, ſhe ſpied the Queen; and in attempting her eſcape,

 dropped

dropped her ball of ſilk, which catching in her foot, unravelled, and left a clue for the Queen to diſcover her retreat. By others it is conjectured, that the thread of ſilk was dropped accidentally by the king, at the entrance to the bower; but it may as reaſonably be concluded, agreeable to the old ballad, that the enraged Queen forced the ſecret from the Knight who was entruſted with the care of the labyrinth.

" And forth ſhe calls the truſty knight,
" In an unhappy hour,
" Who, with his clue of twined thread,
" Came from this famous bower."

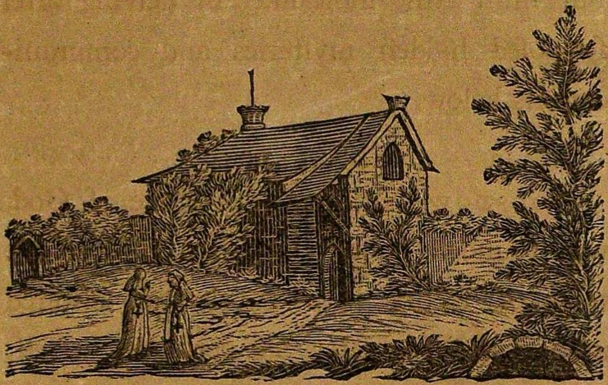
HISTORIANS of the greateſt veracity ſeem not to credit her being poiſoned: it is more than probable that the ſtory might have ariſen from the figure of a cup ſaid to have been ſculptured on her tomb—no uncommon decoration in a Catholic church.

Brompton, Knighton, and Higden, hiſtorians of repute, all ſeem to agree that ſhe died a natural death, ſoon after her concealment in the bower. Equivocal, and uncertain as the cauſe of the death of this unfortunate beauty may appear, it is beyond controverſy, that ſhe was interred in the choir at Godſtow Nunnery, near Oxford, where, in the early and innocent part of her life, ſhe had reſided a conſiderable time; and in the year 1191, according to Hoveden, the corpſe was removed by order of Hugh, Biſhop of Lincoln, who, on viſiting this nunnery, and obſerving a tomb covered with ſilk, and lighted by a profuſion of wax tapers, enquired to whom it belonged, and being anſwered, to Roſamond, miſtreſs to King Henry, he exclaimed, in a fit of zeal, " Take " this harlot from hence, and bury her " without the church, leſt through her the " Chriſtian religion ſhould be ſcandalized, " and that other women, warned by her ex-

" ample, may refrain from unlawful and
" adulterous love."

The Queen, in Mr. Addiſon's Opera of Roſamond, thus enjoins her attendants:

" Beneath thoſe hills a convent ſtands,
" Where the fam'd ſtreams of Iſis ſtray,
" Thither the breathleſs corſe convey,
" And bid the cloiſter'd maids with care
" The due ſolemnities prepare."



Of this nunnery little remains but the chapel given in the annexed ſketch, and a wall, which denotes it to have been a place

of

of confiderable extent. The ground is in feveral places broken up, and the appearance of an arched way is plainly difcernable; but the ftory of its having been a fubterraneous paffage to Woodftock does not feem probable. The fame idea takes place with refpect to moft of the religious houfes in the kingdom; as if popular enquiry could not reft fatisfied with detecting the pranks and doublings of nun and prieft above ground, but muft ftill, mole-like, be delving after fuppofed hidden myfteries and communications below.

GODSTOW NUNNERY, or Place of God, was founded about the latter end of the reign of Henry I. by Editha, an infpired matron of Winchefter. She perfuaded herfelf, or was perfuaded by her prieft, that fhe was directed by a vifion to this neighbourhood, where a light from Heaven was to appear, that would point out the fpot on which fhe

ſhould erect a nunnery. Aſſiſted, afterwards, by various donations of the pious, (for whatever viſions ſhe might have been promiſed, it does not appear that any of them were viſions of gold) ſhe was enabled to compleat her project, and about the year 1138, the building was conſecrated, and Editha preſided as abbeſs over twenty-four fair nuns. Henry II. and his ſon, King John, were liberal benefactors to this religious inſtitution. The latter bequeathed a conſiderable fund for maſſes to be ſaid, and " that theſe holy virgins might relieve " with their prayers, the ſoules of his fa- " ther, King Henrie, and of Lady Roſa- " mond, there interred."

Immense ſums were expended at Roſamond's interment, as well by her noble parents as by her enamoured ſovereign, who was laviſh in the decorations of this fair unfortunate's tomb; the workmanſhip of " which,

which, according to the deſcription of Ranulph Higden, the hiſtorian, "ſeems to have "been of wood, and of wonderful contri-"vance, that her cheſt, coffin, or tomb, to "be ſeen in the chapter-houſe, is not above "two feet long, or perhaps ſquare, but a "ſtupendous piece of workmanſhip, where-"in might be ſeen the conflicts of cham-"pions, the geſtury of animals, the flight "of birds, with fiſhes leaping, and all done "without the aſſiſtance of man."

Notwithstanding the body was removed, as before obſerved, from where it was originally depoſited, yet the opinion of the bigotted prieſt did not obtain much among the minds of the well-informed, by whom ſhe was conſidered after her death as little leſs than a ſaint;

"And, 'ſpite of Fame, her fate revers'd believe,
"O'erlook her crimes, and think ſhe ought to live."

LELAND records the following inſcription on a croſs, which he ſays, ſtood near the entrance of the nunnery-gate.

"Qui meat hac oret, ſignum ſalutis adoret.
"Utque ſibi detur veniam Roſamunda precetur."

AFTER the removal of the body from the church it was placed in the chapter-houſe, whence, ſays Speed, "the chaſte ſiſters gathered her bones, and put them in a perfumed leather bag, incloſing them ſo in a lead, and layde them againe in the church under a fayre large grave-ſtone; about whoſe edges a fillet of braſſe was inlay'd, and thereon written her name and praiſe: theſe bones were at the ſuppreſſion of that nunnery ſo found." This agrees with Leland's account of its ſituation after the "diſſolution of the nunnery, who ſays "Roſamunde's tumbe at Godſtowe nunnery "was

" was taken up of late; it is a ftone with " this infcription, ' Tumba Rofamundæ;' " her bones were clofed in lede, and within " that, bones were clofed in lether; when it " was opened, there was a fweet fmell came " out of it."

A large ftone coffin is now ftanding in the chapel, which there is little reafon to believe ever contained the remains of this faded flower."

The following lines are written on the wall, faid to have been copied from thofe on her tomb:

" Hic jacet in tumba, Rofa Mundi, non Rofamunda;
" Non redolet, fed olet, quæ redolere folet."

Perhaps this recital of well-known circumftances may be thought prolix, and fo-

reign to the ſubject; but as the mind is naturally fond of incident bordering on romance, this legendary tale, as it beguiles the moment, may plead an apology for its introduction.

Godstow-bridge & remains of the Nunnery.

SECTION IX.

GODSTOW NUNNERY, of which ſo much has been ſaid in the laſt ſection, is contiguous to the bridge bearing that name, approaching which, the view from the river continues to improve in every break and eaſy winding of its current. The depth of water is encreaſed, and its verdant meadows greatly enrich the diſtant proſpect, abounding in pictureſque ſcenery, combining the villages of Handborough and Garſington; theſe are ſcreened by the range of the Witham Hills, which form a kind of amphitheatre, and on a nearer approach give a grandeur to the landſcape, we have not before witneſſed. Yet even here the imagination is not gratified: the contiguity of the noble palace of Blenheim, which we have juſt quitted, recurs to the mind, and we naturally regret, that thoſe hills will in no part admit a diſtant view of that

that noble edifice. Thus no ſooner are we pleaſed with objects as they appear, but we are deſirous of aſſociating with them other forms which cannot be brought within our reach; and though the barrier is placed by the hand of nature, we are ſtill too apt to diſquiet ourſelves and verify the obſervation of Prior, that

> "The wiſhed-for ſomething unpoſſeſs'd,
> "Corrodes and leavens all the reſt."

THE Gothic ſimplicity and the antiquity of Godſtow bridge, with the adjoining remains of the nunnery wall, and contiguous woody ſcenery; the perpetual moving picture on the water, produced by the paſſage of weſt country barges, and the gayer ſcenery preſented by the pleaſure boats, and ſelect parties from the neighbouring univerſity, render it in every point of view a happy ſubject for the pencil.

A CUT is now forming at ſome diſtance

above the bridge, which will turn the current of the river a little from its preſent channel, towards the ruins of the nunnery wall, and when it falls in again with the old ſtream a little below the bridge, will conſiderably aid the navigation.

The beauty of the ſcenery a little below Godſtow ſtill encreaſes, and the river nobly expanding itſelf, ſeems proudly urging its courſe, to pay its tribute to that ancient and noble ſeminary of learning, Oxford, whoſe venerable towers and lofty domes all happily unite to form a general maſs of objects ſuperior to any thing which this country can boaſt.

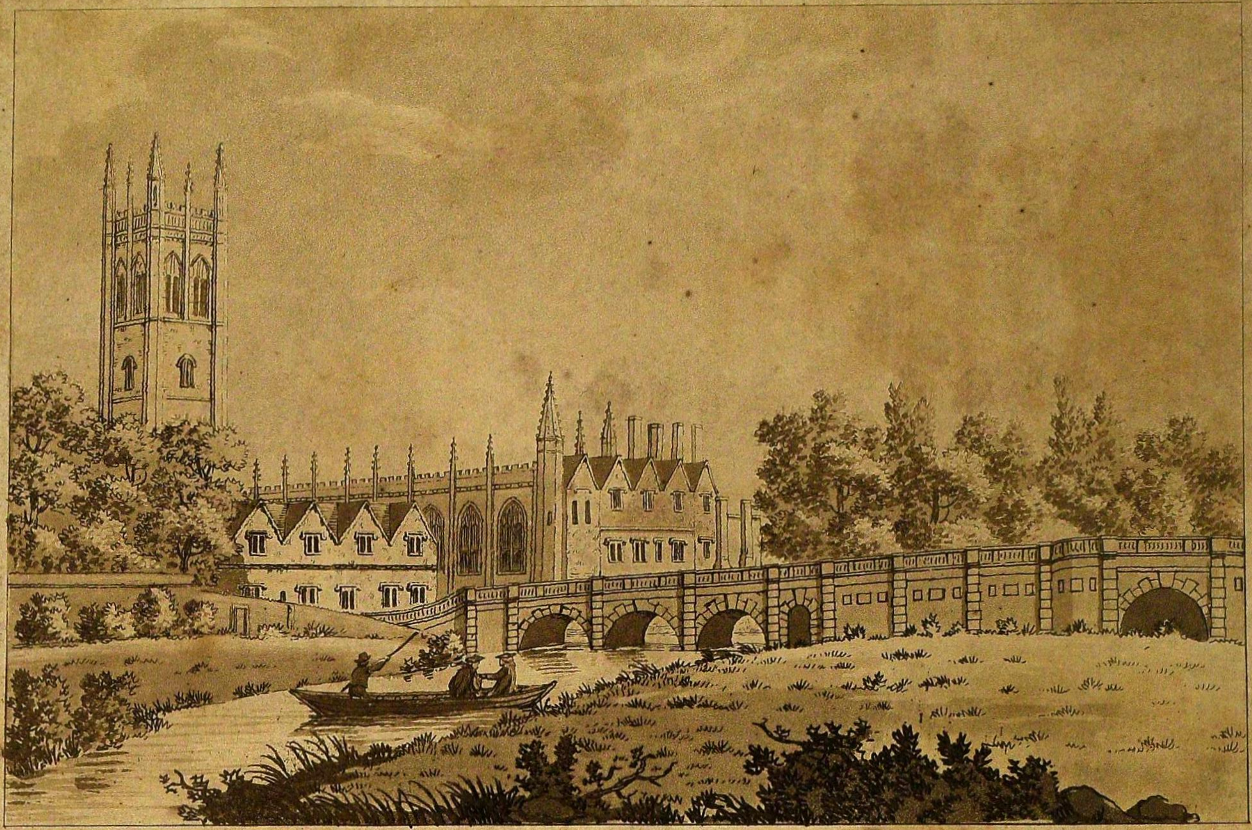
Passing nearer to the city, as we approach the village of Medley, each particular in this noble aſſemblage of buildings is beautifully marked, and happily diſcriminated by the chearful rays of light now darting on them from a mid-day ſun.

NEAR Medley was anciently a very confiderable monaftery, of which little now remains to mark its former greatnefs.

WITHIN about a mile of the city the Warwickfhire canal approaches very near to the Thames ftream, and from that point runs almoft parallel with it, till it reaches the place of its deftination. The immenfe utility of this navigation, in the article of coals particularly, promifes confequences to this city and the neighbouring country, which, it is to be hoped, will compenfate for the heavy expence and great delays which have attended the execution of this fpirited adventure.

WE next approach to High or Hithe Bridge, which confifts of three arches, but is fo confined in fituation, as to afford no point fufficiently picturefque to give it a place in this work.

SEC-



Magdalen College & Bridge. Oxford.

SECTION X.

OF the Univerſity and ancient City of Oxford, at once the pride of our own country, and juſtly the admiration of foreigners, ſo much has been already written, that it is ſcarcely poſſible to advance any thing new on the ſubject: yet, unequal as I feel myſelf to the taſk of making any addition to the hiſtory and antiquities of this place, it is, at the ſame time, ſo cloſely connected with my preſent enquiry, and ſo richly ſtored with the elegancies of art and ſcience, that on ſome of theſe ſubjects, I preſume, I am by the very nature of my undertaking, called upon to hazard an opinion of my own; I ſhall, therefore, briefly remark on ſuch works of art, as either appear to have ſuperior merit, or afford obſervations that may tend to aid a compariſon between the ſtate

of the arts, at a former period, and that which they hold at preſent.

The annexed view of Magdalen bridge, though not properly an appendage of the Thames, has ſtill ſo much merit in its deſign, as to render it no unfit object to place at the head of this ſection: it was begun in the year 1772, by Mr. John Gwynn, who was a native of this city; whoſe work, tho' by no means a perfect model of beauty, will ſtill be thought to add more credit to the architect, in point of taſte and deſign, than to thoſe who had the conſervancy of the river over which it paſſes. It is a ſpacious ſtone bridge, five hundred and twenty-ſix feet in length, conſiſting of eleven arches, five of which are without the neceſſary accompanyment, water; under the other ſix run two ſhallow branches of the river Cherwell: it certainly forms a noble entrance to the city from the London road, and may poſſibly be

of ſome utility at a future period, when taſte and good ſenſe may take into conſideration, ſhould the thing be practicable, the uniting of two ſtreams, which connected would conſtitute one river that will do honour to the univerſity.

The High-ſtreet, to which the bridge leads, contains the nobleſt and moſt diverſified aſſemblage of architectural objects, perhaps, in this country, and ſtrongly impreſſes the mind with an idea of the magnificence and Gothic ſplendor of earlier times. The eaſy curve in which this entrance is conſtructed, adds much to its beauty, as ſtraight lines (notwithſtanding the opinion of Sir Chriſtopher Wren, in his intended plan of London) are certainly not pleaſing to the critical eye, though they may contribute to the health and convenience of a great city.

Magdalen College, at the foot of the bridge, is a noble ſpecimen of the Gothic ſtyle of building: its lofty tower, which is about one hundred and fifty feet high, was erected anno 1492, under the direction of that princely prelate Wolſey, who was at that time Fellow and Burſar of the college. The ſcale of it may be ſaid to correſpond with the daring aims and character of his mind; and if, as ſome have ſaid, he exhauſted the revenues of the college in this undertak-taking, it marks them ſo much the more ſtrongly.

Within theſe walls the antiquary will find much matter for ſpeculation, particularly in noticing the hieroglyphics cut in ſtone, which ſurround the cloiſters; the hiſtory of which has been formerly matter of much controverſy; nor is it yet decided, whether it is the work of licentiouſneſs, or a ſyſtem of morality for the benefit of the college;

college; ſo little are we able, in the preſent day of refinement, to judge of the intentions of our forefathers (at leaſt when ſpeaking in ſuch parables) whether to ſcourge or to promote impiety. The moſt prevalent opinion that I have been able to collect, is that they were intended (ſtrange as the ideas may be, which ſome of theſe ſymbolical figures may ſeem at firſt view to preſent) to ſhadow out the virtues and qualities that ſhould unite in the character of their preſident.

Some painted glaſs in the anti-chapel, though much impaired, has yet excellence enough to recommend it to notice. The altar-piece, repreſenting the reſurrection, painted by Iſaac Fuller, is ſo devoid of merit, as to render it no farther an object of attention than to point out the low ſtate of hiſtory painting at that period, comparatively with that of the preſent day; if ever

his

his tafte, as has been reported, led him to the ftudy of Michael Angelo, it certainly feems to have forfaken him when he has felected only his imperfections.

Mr. Addison, who was a more elegant writer than a critic on painting, has beftowed much encomium on this work in a Latin poem, to be found in the Mufæ Anglicanæ.

An ancient cuftom is ftill obferved in this college:—On May-day morning the chorifters fing a Latin hymn, precifely as the clock ftrikes five; and the bridge and neighbourhood, fhould the morning prove fair, are generally thronged with the liftening croud. A lamb ufed formerly to be roafted whole on the leads of the tower, for breakfaft; but in this age of refinement, a dinner is fubftituted, at which the lamb is not forgotten.

The

THE court to the grand entrance of the physic-garden, to the left, on passing the bridge, is from a design of Inigo Jones, executed by Nicholas Stone; it is in the Doric order, with rustic decorations, and is not unworthy so great a master.

QUEEN'S College is a modern structure, began about the year 1672, and somewhat resembling the style of the Luxemburgh palace. The cupola is certainly not proportionate to the rest of the façade, being much too large, and totally misplaced. It has besides more the air of a canopy held over the Queen than an embellishment to a public edifice. The nick-name of salt-cellar and pepper-box, bestowed on this building and the neighbouring spires of All Souls, by some young students, though ludicrous, is not inapplicable to the whimsical combination of objects, which from hence present themselves in a certain point of view.

Queen's College was founded by Robert Egglesfield, Confeſſor to Queen Philippa, Conſort of King Edward III. in 1340. To the admirers of painted glaſs twelve windows of conſiderable merit will be found in the chapel, dated 1518; and one over the altar, repreſenting the Nativity, by Price, in 1717. Several ancient cuſtoms are ſtill obſerved in this college, particularly one on a New-year's-day, when the Burſar of the college gives to each member a needle and thread, with this injunction, " take this and be thrifty." This cuſtom is ſaid to derive its origin from the founder's name, Egglesfield, the anagram of which forms in the French, aiguille a needle, and fil a thread.

The ceremony of introducing a boar's head on Chriſtmas-day is ſtill attended to, and accompanied with much ſolemnity, by an old monkiſh carol, which is ſung by the Taberders, who bring in the boar's head.

The origin of the cuſtom of bringing up this boar's head at Chriſtmas is ſaid to have ariſen from a taberder or ſcholar of the ſociety, who walking in the vicinity of Oxford, and reading Ariſtotle's Logic, was encountered by a wild boar, and in defending himſelf thruſt his Ariſtotle down his throat, and choaked him, when

"Inſtead of avoiding the mouth of the beaſt,
"He ramm'd in a volume, and cried—Græcum eſt."

I am doubtful whether this ſtory has not been invented to ſhew the effect of logic, which I believe to this day is often thruſt down the throat of the hearer, and is found inſtead of improving the faculties, to have overwhelmed them.

In the chapel of the college of All Souls, founded by Biſhop Chichely in 1437, over the altar is a picture by Mengs. The ſubject is Chriſt's firſt appearance to Mary

Magdalen after his reſurrection, or as it is uſually called, the Noli me tangere: there is much clear and brilliant colouring in this picture, particularly in the body of the principal figure. The countenance of the Magdalen is happily and elegantly expreſſed with a placid mixture of dignity and grief ſuited to the occaſion; but there is about the eyes too much glare of redneſs. The drawing of the principal figure is likewiſe formal, and wants elegance; it is, however, with all its defects, a work of much merit. An engraving has been made from it by the late Mr. Sherwin.

Several other pictures are to be found in this college on hiſtorical ſubjects, by Sir James Thornhill, whoſe merit in that branch of the art, as an Engliſh painter, ſeems to me to be unrivalled, till the exertions made by ſeveral of our artiſts in the preſent period.

In a ſmall room adjoining to the library are ſome ſpecimens of painted glaſs, which have been removed from thence, and are coeval with the foundation of this college. Among theſe are the portraits of Henry VI. and of the founder.

The ancient cuſtom is ſtill obſerved here of celebrating the diſcovery of a large mallard, or drake, ſaid to be found in a drain or ſewer, at the time of digging for the foundation of the college. This mallard has by ſome been degraded into a gooſe; be it one or the other, it is certainly the cauſe of a jovial evening in the hall, on the 14th of January, when this merriment is heighthened by an excellent old ſong, ſung in commemoration of this event. I ſhall give as a ſpecimen the introductory and concluding ſtanzas.

" Griffin, buſtard, turkey, capon,
" Let other hungry mortals gape on;

"And on the bones their ſtomach fall hard;
"But let All Souls men have their mallard.
"Oh! by the blood of King Edward,
"Oh! by the blood of King Edward,
"It was a ſwapping, ſwapping, mallard.

"The Romans once admir'd a gander
"More than they did their chief commander;
"Becauſe he ſav'd, if ſome don't fool us,
"The place that's call'd from th' head of Tolus.
"Oh! by the blood, &c.

"Therefore let us ſing, and dance a galliard,
"To the remembrance of the mallard;
"And as the mallard dives in pool,
"Let us dabble, dive, and duck in bowl.
"Oh! by the blood, &c."

The venerable and Gothic pile, Saint Mary's church, forms no inconſiderable object in the range of buildings on the north of the High-ſtreet. The body of it was erected in the reign of Henry VII.; and the ponderous tower, with its lofty ſpire and ornaments, niches, and ſtatues, was added by the

the firſt Biſhop of Oxford, in the reign of Henry VIII. who was the laſt Abbot of Oſeney. The elegant portal was raiſed by Dr. Owen, Chaplain to Archbiſhop Laud, in 1637, and ſtrikes me, from the taſte of its embelliſhments and contour of the figure of the Virgin and the infant Chriſt holding a croſs in the pedeſtal above, as being from a deſign of Rubens or Diepenbeck. It is ſingular that the figure of the child holding the croſs ſhould have been deemed an object worth dwelling upon, as a corroborative proof, among others, of the Archbiſhop Laud's attachment to popery. It is even ſuppoſed to have formed an article of impeachment againſt that prelate; but enthuſiaſm in religious tenets has ever been too fatally marked with ſanguinary meaſures, and a deviation from that which ought to be their firſt principle—humanity.

On the ſouth ſide of the High-ſtreet ſtands Univerſity College, founded by King Alfred in 872: but the preſent ſtructure was raiſed in 1634. The hall is of ſtill more modern date, and is in a ſuperior ſtile of Gothic deſign. The figure of Alfred, by Wilton, in the common room, is the beſt piece of ſculpture I remember to have ſeen of that artiſt: it will not add to his excellence, however, when it is obſerved to be from a model of Ryſbrack.

Of that magnificent edifice, the college of Chriſt's Church, its ſtately entrance and happy ſelection of Gothic proportions, too much cannot be ſaid in commendation; but it is with regret to be obſerved, that the excellence of its grand front is conſiderably injured by the contracted ſituation of the ſtreet on which it ſtands. The ſpacious and noble quadrangle inſpires the mind on a firſt view with every idea of ancient grandeur;

and

and were there no other remains of the cardinal's princely mind, this alone would bear laſting teſtimony to his unbounded munificence. The beautiful roof of the elegant ſtair-caſe leading to the hall is ſupported only by a ſingle pillar, which, with the Gothic fret-work in the cieling of the ſpacious hall above, and the vaulted roof of the choir, particularly ſaid to have been conſtructed under the direction of Wolſey, are truly deſerving of critical obſervation. The elegant tower was deſigned by Sir Chriſtopher Wren, and is well adapted to harmonize with the reſt of the building.

Among the many portraits in the hall are two by Sir Joſhua Reynolds; the one a fine head of Dr. Markham; the other, of ſtill ſuperior excellence, the charming portrait of Dr. Robinſon, the Lord Primate of Ireland, on which if I may venture an opinion, I think his beſt work in portrait.

Here

Here are two fine heads, the one of Lord Chief Baron Skinner; the other of Welbore Ellis, Eſq; by Gainſborough: and an excellent head of Dr. Hooper, Biſhop of Bath and Wells, by Hogarth; of which an engraving, in this rage for the works of that great maſter, ſhould not be withheld from the public. At the north corner of the weſt end of the church, is a window painted by I. Oliver, the ſubject Peter delivered out of priſon by the angel; the colouring in parts is brilliant, and the drawing throughout much to be admired: it was painted by Iſaac Oliver, whom Mr. Walpole conjectures to have been the ſon of James, the younger brother of the celebrated Peter Oliver. This window was painted by him, when in a very advanced age, having the following inſcription:

"Φliver ætat. ſuæ 84, anno 1700, pinxit deditque."

"I SHALL

I SHALL remark farther, from Mr. Walpole, of this artiſt, "that he was eſtimable "for his own merit, and that of his family, "and that he alone preſerved the ſecret of "painting on glaſs."

OF the elegant additional building to the north-eaſt of the great quadrangle, called Peckwater Court, the three ſides were founded by Dr. Radcliffe, a Canon of this church, under the direction of Dean Aldrich, equally famed for his abilities in the elegant arts, as for his talents as a man of learning. It is regularly noble in its parts, without a redundancy of ornament, and will, in all probability, long remain a monument of the taſte and good ſenſe of its architect, the Dean.

THE apartments in the library are noble and ſpacious, and well conſtructed for the purpoſes to which they are applied, except

ſome of the lower ones, which, I confeſs, might have been decorated with better judgment: I mean thoſe applied to the reception of General Guiſe's collection of pictures; many of which, if original, are ſo defaced by the hands of injudicious picture cleaners, as to leave very faint remains of excellence, and ſcarcely to merit a place in the cabinet of a competent and well-ſkilled amateur in the graphic art. I ſhall point out a few among them, that ſeem to have the moſt excellence, and appear to be genuine works of the maſters to whom they are imputed.

The Martyrdom of Eraſmus, a ſketch for the great picture in St. Peter's church at Rome, by N. Pouſſin—A ſketch of a man and horſe, by Vandyck—Three heads, cartoons, by Raphael, on paper—A portrait of the Duke d'Alva, by Titian; and that of a Venetian Nobleman, its companion; the heads and hands of which are clear and richly coloured

coloured—A holy family, by Parmegiano; the children beautifully painted. The Virgin contemplating her Child; Primaticcio: the head of the Virgin is graceful, and full of elegance; but the figure much too tall—Of the family of the Caracci, reprefented in a butcher's fhop, imputed to the pencil of Annibal; as it is a difputed picture, I fhall fufpend my judgment as to the mafter; yet it may be fafely allowed to be a work of great merit. The anxiety of the foldier, who is buying the meat, is forcibly expreffed; as are likewife the inferior parts of the picture: it is to be regretted, that fo much merit has been lavifhed on fo difgufting a fubject. Of two pictures, faid to be by Raphael, the one a Nativity, the other a Madona, they have been fo repaired by a modern hand, that he has fairly eclipfed the great original.

In New College, founded by William of Wyckham, the painted glafs, by that excel-

lent artiſt, Jervaiſe, after the cartoons of Sir Joſhua Reynolds, is highly deſerving commendation. Though Mr. Jervaiſe cannot be ſaid to have reſtored the art of painting on glaſs, he certainly has greatly contributed to its excellence, by having happily united his labours with ſome of the firſt artiſts of the preſent day, to give that ſpecies of painting ſomething more to recommend it than mere gaudy colouring. This idea will be better proved by a compariſon of his works with the old windows in the chapel of this college, which were painted as early as its foundation.

Much is due to Mr. Wyatt for his judicious care in attempting to reſtore the remains of the ancient Gothic altar in the chapel, which, though it may have ſuffered greatly from the hand of time, and certainly more from the ravages of reformation, is not yet ſo defaced, that it ſhould be out of the

power

power of ſo maſterly an artiſt, to reſtore in it, one of the fineſt ſpecimens of ancient elegance in the Gothic ſtyle, remaining in this Kingdom.

In Wadham College will be found a work of Iſaac Fuller of a ſingular kind. It is an altar-piece, painted on an aſh-coloured cloth, which ſerves as a middle tint to the ſhades, which are of brown crayon. The lights are heightened by white, and being worked up as a crayon picture, and preſſed with hot irons, which cauſe an exſudation from the canvaſs, ſo incorporate the crayon with the texture of the canvaſs, as to render the colours proof againſt the hard rubbing even of a bruſh.

The ſecond court at Trinity College, is, from a deſign of Sir Chriſtopher Wren, and may juſtly vie with any modern edifice in this

this univerſity. A curious manuſcript of Euclid is ſhewn in the library: it is a tranſlation from the Arabic into Latin, before the diſcovery of the original Greek by Adelardus Bathonienſis, in 1130.

In Worceſter College will likewiſe be found an invaluable treaſure, Inigo Jones's Palladio, with his own manuſcript notes in Italian. It was bequeathed to this college by Dr. Clarke. In the poſſeſſion of the Duke of Devonſhire is another work of this kind, with notes in Latin.

In the various colleges and halls in this venerable receptacle of knowlege, each has its ſhare of learned and curious treaſures, which, from the brevity of this work, are too numerous to be particularized. I have, therefore, only aimed at a few ſlight remarks on ſuch objects as ſtruck me moſt forcibly,

and

and which, I hope, may ſerve as an apology for paſſing unobſerved many things that more informed minds might have brought forward to notice, in one of the firſt ſeminaries in the univerſe.

SEC-

Christ Church College & South-bridge, Oxford.

SECTION XI.

ON quitting Oxford, we paſſed the ancient bridge, formerly called Grand Pont, or South Bridge, but which is now better known by the appellation of *Folly Bridge*. It is ſaid, by ſome, to have derived this name from the circumſtance of Friar Bacon having choſen this ſpot, being on the ſide of a public road, and on the banks of a navigable river, for the ſituation of his ſtudy—a ſituation, of all others, it ſhould ſeem, the leaſt adapted to the purpoſes of retirement and cultivation of the mind. Another, and more probable, account is, that it was ſo called from ſome original defect in the arches, which were obliged to be ſupported by additional means. The bridge was built, according to Anthony Wood's account of Oxford, as early as the Conqueſt, by Robert

 D'Oyley,

D'Oyley, on the ſite of one ſtill older, which is ſaid, by authentic records, to have been ſ anding prior to the time of King Etheldred.

The ancient tower, called Friar Bacon's Study, to which I have juſt referred, ſtood at the ſouth end of this bridge, and was occupied by him as an obſervatory. This friar was of the Franciſcan order, and a celebrated aſtronomer. From his philoſophical diſcoveries, and particularly the invention of gun-powder, he had, amongſt the vulgar, the imputation of being a magician, and, from thoſe better informed, the epithet of Doctor Mirabilis. It was ridiculouſly ſaid of this tower, that whenever it fell, a more learned man than the friar muſt neceſſarily be paſſing under it. Without reproach to the learning of the univerſity, it appears, however, to have ſtood ſome centuries, and, at length, a few years ſince, it came down, in the courſe of other improvements than

thoſe

View at Ifley, near Oxford.

thofe of fcience, and not becaufe fome one more learned than the friar happened to be then paffing that way.

The noble College of Chrift Church, and its contiguous buildings, form a beautiful combination of objects from the neighbouring meadows on the margin of the river. At the extremity of thefe meadows the river Cherwell unites itfelf with the Thames, which gently winds its current through a delightful range of verdant fcenery, Oxford ftill remaining in view, till we reach the village of Iffley, about a mile and a half below the city. This enchanting fpot is a combination of all that is defirable in picturefque landfcape. It is fituated on a beautiful eminence, commanding an extenfive diftance, which includes every object in the univerfity; the fcene is completed by the meandering courfe of the river beneath, on the banks of which, immediately under the eye, is a

ſpacious mill, worked by the current of the ſtream, which gives a happy foreground to the rural objects above. From ſuch an aſſemblage, what a complete ſelection of parts for the pencil of a Hobbima or a Ruyſdael! The admirers of Engliſh landſcape, will, I flatter myſelf, receive ſome gratification from the annexed ſketch, which, being faithful, will convey a tolerable idea of the beauties of the ſcenery.

The church of Iffley, on the ſummit, is a fine remain of the Saxon ſtyle of building, particularly its portal, which is richly decorated.

Dr. Nowel has a moſt enviable and charming reſidence in this vicinity.

A little below this ſcene we reach Sandford lock and mill, where the ſoft and elegant views, for which this river in ſome

parts

parts is ſo peculiarly diſtinguiſhed, begin to diſplay themſelves in an eminent degree. The luxuriant hand of Nature has here been peculiarly diffuſive: the rich clumps of trees and verdant lawns, perpetually meeting the eye at every break of the river, on our approach to Nuneham Courtney, ſtrongly impreſs the mind of the admirer of rural objects, and leave not a wiſh to examine the eaſy negligences of nature by the rigid and ſevere rules of art; the effect of ſuch an enquiry can only tend to diminiſh our pleaſures in the purſuit of pictureſque ſcenery, where nature will be found to be invariably right, though ſome parts, taken ſeparately, might be pointed out as diſguſting, and

" Figures monſtrous and miſ-ſhap'd appear,
" Conſider'd ſingly, or beheld too near,
" Which, but proportion'd to their light, or place,
" Due diſtance reconciles to form and grace."

SEC-

Earl Harcourts at Nuneham-Courtnay, Oxon.

SECTION XII.

PURSUING the courſe of the river, the landſcape, as we approach Earl Harcourt's, at Nuneham Courtenay, both from its natural ſituation, and highly cultivated ſtate of improvement, forms a ſelection of picturesque objects ſo happily combined as to be deemed claſſically elegant. The well-choſen ſituation of this manſion is worthy the taſte of its noble owner, where, from every point, the eye of obſervation meets the higheſt gratification. The city of Oxford, at the diſtance of ſix miles, happily bounds the view towards the north, while, on the other ſide, the town of Abingdon gradually riſes, amidſt a rich and fertile country, interſperſed with villages and fruitful woods. The Berkſhire Downs and Vale of White Horſe appear acroſs the neigh-

bouring

bouring meadows, which are pleaſingly interſected by the eaſy winding of the river, which, for many miles, is viſible from either ſide this charming retreat.

The houſe, which is of ſtone, was built by the late Earl, about thirty years ſince, and is well ſituated amidſt a beautiful park of twelve hundred acres in extent; which park, with the gardens containing about thirty-eight acres, were principally laid out by the celebrated Mr. Brown. The flower-garden does not contain more than an acre and a quarter; yet its beautiful irregularity, and happy ſituation by nature, together with its high ſtate of cultivation from the hand of taſte, in the diſpoſal of the ſhrubberies, &c. aided by the well-choſen ſelection of buſts, vaſes, &c. render it altogether the moſt perfect aſſemblage I remember to have ſeen. The beauties of this enchanting ſpot cannot be more happily expreſſed than in the

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elegant lines of Andrew Marvel, inſcribed on a tablet above the center arch in the bower:

" Society is all but rude
" To this delicious ſolitude;
" Where all the flowers and trees do cloſe,
" To weave the garland of repoſe."

WITHIN the houſe are many elegant apartments, particularly the drawing room, the deſign of which ſeems to have been from the Banquetting-houſe, at Whitehall.

THE ſelection of pictures is, as may be imagined from the well-known taſte of the noble owner, formed with much judgment. Four large landſcapes in the great drawing-room, by Van Artois, three of which are enriched with the figures of Teniers, are a happy combination of the ſuperior talents of thoſe great maſters. The celebrated landſcape by Rubens, the ſubject of which is, a cart overturning by moonlight, or, as it

is called, La Charette Embourbee, is a duplicate of that in the Houghton collection. The Naval regatta, on the Texel, by Van de Velt, junior, is one of the firſt works of that excellent painter; the variety of veſſels, and multitude of figures, all buſily employed, are touched with ſo much delicacy and preciſion, as to mark the ſuperiority of the maſter; the clear tone of colouring in the ſky, and happy tranſparency of the water, in this picture, are wonderful. The Moon-light on the water, by Vander Meer, and the Landſcape, by Both, are capital works.

I SHALL forbear to remark further on this valuable collection of pictures, and refer to the ancient maps of England, which are curiouſly wrought in tapeſtry, and are here preſerved in a ſpacious room, built expreſsly for their reception by their noble poſſeſſor. They were purchaſed, about ten

years ſince, at the ſale of the late Mr. Sheldon's effects, at his manſion at Weſton, in Long Compton, in Warwickſhire.

THESE maps are certainly the earlieſt ſpecimens of tapeſtry-weaving in this kingdom. The rivers, hills, clumps of trees, and even windmills, are particularly expreſſed, and with much art in their execution; but the names of the towns, &c. are frequently ill-ſpelt. The names of Francis and Richard Hickes appear on them; but whether they were the weavers or deſigners of this work, is not clearly underſtood.

FOR the introduction of this manufactory into the kingdom, we are indebted to Mr. William Sheldon, in the reign of Hen. VIII. In every map the Sheldon arms, with all their quarterings, are introduced. This Mr. William Sheldon died in 1570.

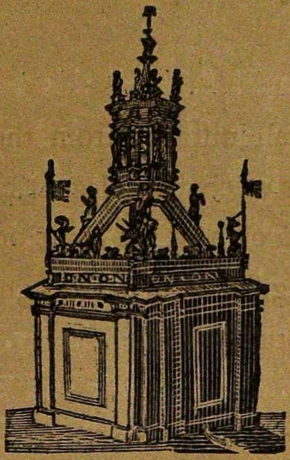
The maps were purchafed by Mr. Horace Walpole, at the above fale for thirty guineas, and were by him prefented to Earl Harcourt.

At a fmall diftance from the houfe, the late Earl has erected an elegant church from a plan of his own in the Ionic order, which, from the fingularity of its defign, is highly deferving notice.

Descending the beautiful lawns, which form an eafy flope towards the margin of the river, the fpacious manfion of Sir James Stonehoufe, at Radley, on the oppofite fide of the water, appears a pleafing object, and to the left of the grounds, in a very picturefque fituation, the eye is delighted with the fine remains of that venerable piece of antiquity removed from Oxford, commonly called Carfax, which is here preferved by his

Lordfhip

Lordſhip from any further depredation, except that of all-conſuming Time.



THE receſs in which it is placed is amidſt a ſtately and variegated thicket of trees, ſo happily diſpoſed, as to ſeem purpoſely deſigned for its reception. The original ſituation of this piece of antiquity is well known to have been in the centre of the principal ſtreet in Oxford; and, probably, from its ſituation in the middle of four ways, or quatre voiz (in old French) it obtained the vul-

gar

gar appellation of Carfax; or, perhaps, with as much probability, from Carrefour, the place where ſeveral ſtreets meet.

The decayed ſtate of this building, and its inconvenient ſituation, induced the Univerſity very lately to take it down, and judiciouſly to place it in hands, where it might remain a gratification to the curious, and a pleaſing monument of antiquity. The noble Earl has cauſed ſome Latin and Engliſh lines to be inſcribed on this building, on its being placed in his ground; the latter of which run as follows:

This building called Carfax,
Erected for a Conduit at Oxford,
By Otho Nicholſon,
In the year of our Lord MDCX.
And taken down in the year MDCCLXXXVII.
To enlarge the High Street,
Was preſented by the Univerſity
To George Simon, Earl Harcourt,
Who cauſed it to be placed here.

A BRIEF

A BRIEF account of this venerable pile may perhaps not prove unacceptable to the reader; I ſhall give it from a manuſcript formerly in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Hanwell, deputy treaſurer of Chriſt Church College, in the univerſity of Oxford: he ſays "It "was built in 1610, by Otho Nicholſon, "M. A. the expence of which building, to-"gether with the charge of bringing the "water by pipes from the conduit-houſe, "near Hinkſey, coſt two thouſand five hun-"dred pounds. After its erection the found-"er was made treaſurer to King James I. In "Chriſt Church Library, which was for-"merly a chapel, is a ſmall monument, "erected to his memory; it is adorned with "ſculptures correſponding with the deco-"rations on the Carfax; on the ſouth of "which are twelve ſun-dials, three towards "each point of the compaſs: between each "corner is finely carved, in a kind of open

"work

" work, the capital letter O. a ſmall figure
" of a mermaid holding a comb and look-
" ing-glaſs: then the capital letter N. and
" a ſmall figure of the ſun, &c. The letters
" O. N. the initials of the founder's name,
" form a rebus, from the analogy between
" the arms and name of the founder---no
" uncommon mode formerly of expreſſing
" devices: on the weſt ſide are the arms of
" the city and univerſity of Oxford, with
" thoſe of the founder; and on the north
" and eaſt are ſimilar devices. Under the
" curious arches, which concenter in the
" top, is a large ciſtern, over which is a
" figure of the Empreſs Maud, riding on an
" ox, which figure is ſurrounded with braſs
" net work; this building is adorned with
" many curious emblematic devices, coats of
" arms of England, Scotland, France, &c.
" the ſeven worthies, King James, King Da-
" vid," &c.—and at the concluſion of this
manuſcript

manufcript is added—" But I leave a more " elegant account to be done by a better " hand; only I fay this,

> " He that won't commend me,
> " Let him come and mend me."

Quitting this delightful fcenery, and purfuing the courfe of the river towards Abingdon, about a mile below Nuneham, the retrofpective view of the country, and noble buildings interfperfed in its vicinity, is truly delightful. Within about a mile of the town of Abingdon, a new cut is formed for the convenience of the navigation, which has rendered the old ftream towards Culham bridge entirely ufelefs; this cut has not only fhortened the diftance towards Abingdon very confiderably, but is become neceffary from the fhallownefs of the ftream, which in dry feafons has not fufficient water for the purpofes of navigation.

View at Abingdon Berks.

SECTION XIII.

THE approach towards Abingdon by an eaſy ſweep of the current affords a very pleaſing view, but the drought of the preſent ſeaſon rendered the paſſage at Abbey Lock impracticable, and ſubjected us to ſome inconvenience, as we were there obliged to have the boat dragged over.

NEAR Abingdon the river Ock waſhes the ſouth ſide of the town. This ſmall river derives its ſource from the Vale of White-Horſe, near Kingſton-Liſle, and gently winding its current empties itſelf, near Abingdon, into the Ouſe, which river flowing northward from Farringdon divides its ſtream as it enters this town.

The annexed view, though not properly upon the Thames, is yet ſo cloſely connected with it, as to render it a neceſſary appendage to this work.

Abingdon is of very great antiquity; its ancient appellation was Sheoveſham; and Camden conjectures that ſynods were held here as early as 742; and an anonymous writer obſerves, "that it was in antient times "a famous city, goodly to behold, full of "riches, encompaſſed with very fruitful "fields, green meadows, ſpacious paſtures, "and flocks of cattle abounding with milk.

"Here the king kept his court, and hither "the people reſorted, while conſultations "were depending about the greateſt and "moſt weighty affairs of the kingdom."

Ciss, a King of the Weſt Saxons, built a ſpacious abbey here, about the year 675, ſoon after

after which it aſſumed the name of Abban-dûn, or the Abbey's Town. This abbey was ſoon after deſtroyed by the Danes, but by the liberality of King Edgar, and the induſtry of the Norman abbots, it recovered its magnificence, and rivalled in wealth and grandeur any abbey in the kingdom. William the Conqueror reſided here ſome time; and in this abbey his ſon Henry received his education.

Of the croſs, of excellent workmanſhip, erected in the Market-place by Henry VI. as mentioned by Leland and others, no traces are remaining; it was deſtroyed in the civil wars.

The conſequence of this abbey was ſuch, as to afford a principal ſupport to the town, till the reign of Henry V. by whom a bridge was conſtructed over the Thames at Culham, and another at Burford, acroſs the river

ver Ouſe. From that circumſtance the town of Abingdon acquired ſo much additional traffic, as to rank among the firſt towns in the county. The building theſe bridges, in 1416, was evidently under the immediate order of the King, as appears from the following Latin diſtich, formerly inſcribed on a window, in the church of St. Helens, in this town:

" Henricus Quintus, quarto fundaverat anno,
" Rex pontem Burford, ſuper undas atque Culhamford."

THE work was conſiderably aſſiſted by the donations of Jeffray Barbur, a conſiderable merchant here, who gave a thouſand marks towards completing it, and making a cauſeway between the bridge of Culham and that of Abingdon, and in conſequence the high road to London was turned through the town. His monument, which is now in the church of St. Helens, was originally in the abbey church,

church, whence it was removed by the inhabitants at the Diſſolution.

The following lines, ſelected from a quaint tranſlation of ſome Latin verſes, mentioned by Aſhmole, may tend to give a general idea of the ſtate of bridge building in the time of Henry V. and of the great advantages expected to be derived from it by the people at large.

" King Henry the Fifth, in the fifth of his reign,
" At Burford and Culham did bridges build twain;
" Between theſe two places, but from Abingdon moſt,
" The King's highways now may be eaſily paſt;
" In one thouſand four hundred and ten more by ſix,
" This ſo pious work did his Majeſty fix:
" Ye paſſengers now who ſhall travel this way,
" Beſure that you mind for the founder to pray.

" King Henry the Fifte, in his fourth yere,
" He hath I found for his folke a bridge in Berkeſchure,
" For cartis with cariage may goo and come clere,
" That many wynters afore were marred in the myre,

" And

" And ſom oute of her ſadels flette to the grounde
" Went forthe in the water wiſt no man whare,
" Five wekys after, or, they were I founde,
" Her kyn and her knowlech caught hem up with care.

" Upon the day of Seynt Albon they began this game,
" And John Huchyns layde the firſte ſtoon in the Kynges
" name.

" It was a ſolace to ſee in a ſomer ſeſonn,
" C. C. C. I wyſſe workyng onys,
" iiii & iiii relyv'd be reſon,
" To wete who wrought beſt were ſet for the nonce.
" The peple preved her power with the pecoyſe
" The mattok was mann handeled right welle a whyle;
" With ſpades and ſchovells they made ſuch a noyſe
" That men myght here hem thens a myle.
" Wyves went oute to wite now they wroughte,
" V ſcare in a flok, it was a fayre ſight;
" In brod cloths bright, white brede they brought,
" Cheeſe and chekenes clerelych a dyght.

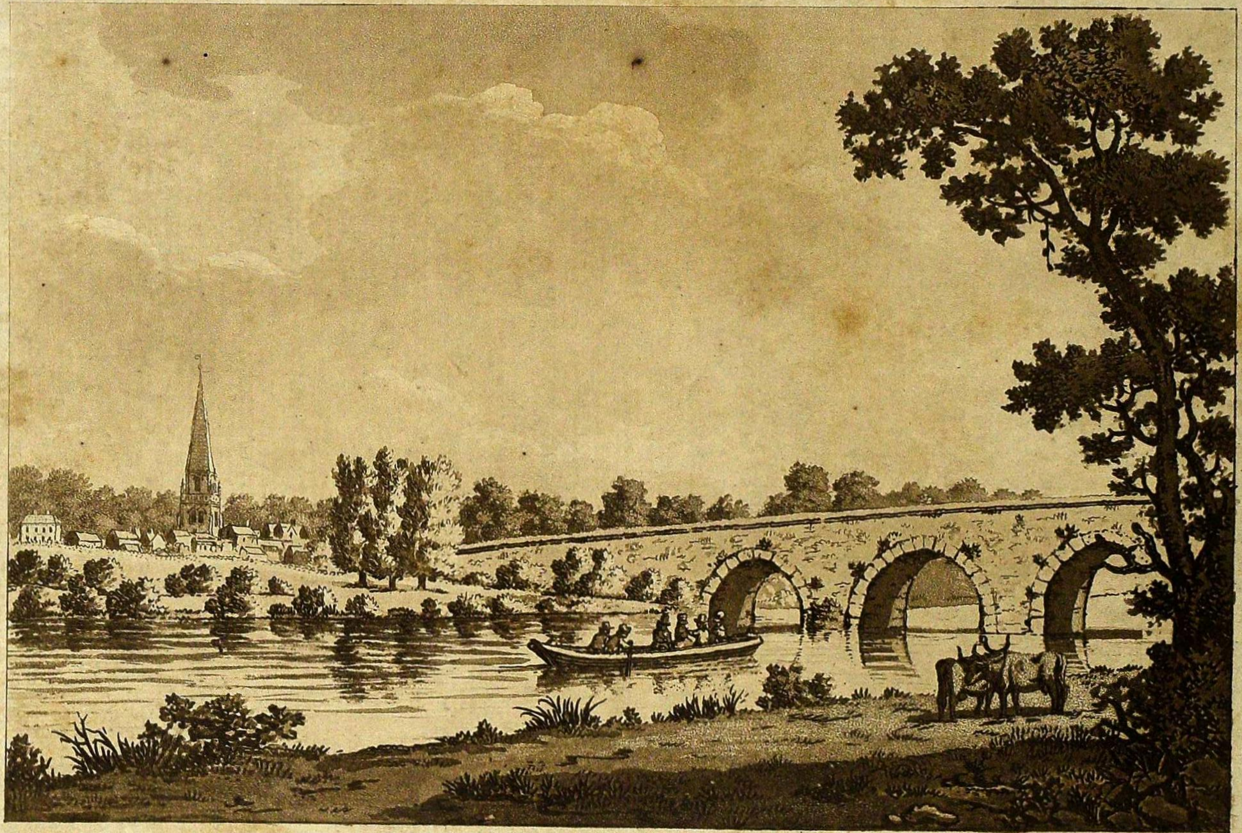
" The

" The gode Lord of Abendon, of his londe,
" For the breed of the bridge xxiii. foot large,
" It was a greet ſocour of erthe and of ſonde,
" And that he abated the rent of the barge.
" And C. pownde, and xvli. was truly payed.
" Be the bondes of John Huchyns and Banbery alſo,
" For the waye and the barge, thus it muſt be ſayed,
" Thereto witneſſe Abendon, and many oon moo.
" For now is Culham Hithe, I com to an ende,
" An al the contre the better, and no man the worſe;
" Few folke there were coude that way wende,
" But they waged a wed, or payed of her purſe;
" And if it were a begger had breed in his bagge,
" He ſchulde be ryght ſoone i bid for to goo aboute,
" And of the pore penyles the hiereward wold habbe
" A hood or a girdel, and let hem goo withoute;
" Many moo myſcheves there were I ſay,
" Culham hithe hath cauſid many a curſe;
" I blyſſed be our helpers, we have a better waye,
" Without any peny for cart and for horſe.
" Thus accordid the kynge and the covent,
" And the commons of Abendonn, as the abbot wolde;
" Thus they were eaſed, and ſet all in oon aſſent,
" That al the brekynges of the brige, the town here
" ſchulde.

"This was preved acte also in parlement,
"In perpetual pees to have and to holde;
"This tale is i tolde in noon other extent,
"But for myrthe, and in memory to young and to olde."

A HANDSOME wharf is lately completed at the extremity of the town of Abingdon, beyond which the new cut, forming a small curve, joins the main river a little below Culham bridge; which, with the neighbouring town, affords no unpleasing object.

THE village of Sutton Courtney, about a mile from the bridge, happily terminates the view from the water; and the contiguous mill and lock greatly enrich the beauty of the scenery. The toll of this lock is very heavy on the commerce of this river, being one pound fifteen shillings on every barge. We passed it on a Sunday, and consequently the mill not being at work, the want of water obliged us to have the boat dragged over the



Culham - bridge near Abingdon.

the neighbouring meadows for more than half a mile, which occaſioned no ſmall delay, and a conſiderable expence.

The general face of the country in our farther progreſs was dull and unintereſting 'till we approached Dorcheſter; where, paſſing Appleford, the village of Long Wittenham, and the contiguous range of hills, conſiderably enrich the ſcene. Within this church, under the King's Arms, which are placed over the rood-loft, is the following whimſical Latin diſtich—

"Qui leo de Juda eſt, & flos de Jeſſe, leones
"Protegat, & flores Carole Magne tuos."

Near this is a figure of Death, under which is the following couplet—

"Man is a glaſs, life is as water weakly wall'd about,
"Sin brought in Death, Death breaks the glaſs, ſo
"runs this water out."

From Long Wittenham the river winds fuddenly towards Clifton, a village in Oxfordfhire, where the combination of objects is truly picturefque. A fmall church, fituated on a richly variegated bank, rifing almoft perpendicularly on the border of the river, (on which the traffic of the ferry-boats gives a perpetually moving picture) cannot but attract the eye of obfervation. The water here is remarkably fhallow, yet perfectly tranfparent, and beautifully reflects the clear and gravelly bed of the river. Paffing Burcot, late the manfion of Sir Henry Oxenden, the extenfive woody fcenery of his grounds forms a beautiful fcreen on the Oxfordfhire fide of the river for a confiderable diftance.

As we approach Little Wittenham, the fcenery is rich, and the objects fo happily combined, and within fo confined a fpace, as to render them fit fubjects for the pencil.

Clifton. Oxfordshire.

Towards Dorchester the river narrows exceedingly, and for a great extent runs nearly in a straight line, which gives it more the appearance of a pleasurable canal than a navigable river. The neighbouring woods reflecting their sombre shades in the water add not a little to the serenity of the scene. Near this spot the river Tame empties itself into the main stream, where a wooden bridge is constructed for a communication with the neighbouring meadows. This river rises in the county of Bucks, and passes the town to which it gives appellation; where,

> " With a faint kiss it mocks the walls of Tame,
> " And leaves behind her nothing but a name."

It next visits Dorchester,

> " Which wondering at her speed,
> " Most gladly bids the happy match succeed."

So sings the author of the poem on the Marriage of Tame and Isis.

Dor-

Dorchester is a town at preſent of little conſequence, but formerly it held a conſiderable rank among the Britiſh cities, by the name of Civitas Dorcinia. It was anciently a biſhop's ſee, founded by one Birinus, called the apoſtle of the Weſt Saxons, to whom the common people paid ſo great a veneration, that in the hiſtory of Alcheſter it is ſaid, " A " round hill there ſtill appears, where the " ſuperſtitious ages built Birinus a ſhrine, " teaching them that had any cattle amiſs, " to creep to that ſhrine." A blackſmith in the town is in poſſeſſion of the gold ring, ſaid to have been that of Birinus. Near this ancient town of Dorcheſter, the Tame forms a junction with the main river, from which it is by many abſurdly believed to have derived the appellation of Thames.

SEC-

Shillingford-bridge. Berks.

SECTION XIV.

THE beauty of the ſcenery from the vicinity of Dorcheſter, greatly improves in verdure and richneſs. The eaſy ſloping hills on the Berkſhire ſide of the river are crowned with a variegated combination of ſylvan objects; while here and there a chalky break in the cliff renders the view ſtrikingly diverſified, and highly intereſting. The ſhort reaches in the river, as we approach towards Shillingford, it muſt be allowed, prevent that extent of ſcenery which is perhaps neceſſary to form what may be called majeſtic in landſcape; yet the parts, though ſimple, are ſo happily aſſociated, as to be truly gratifying to the eye.

THE

The light and elegant bridge of Shillingford, with the variety of carriages that are continually paſſing and repaſſing, aided by the gliding objects on the water beneath, greatly add to the natural beauty of the landſcape. In this delightful retreat the ſkilful angler finds high gratification in his purſuit, and ample ſources of contemplation.

" Here bliſsful thoughts his mind engage,
" To crouded, noiſy ſcenes unknown;
" Wak'd by ſome bard's inſtructive page,
" Or calm reflections all his own."

The river makes a beautiful curve below Shillingford, at the termination of which Benſington, or Benſon church, which has been recently repaired, meets the eye in a pleaſing point of view; little more than the ſpire, which is perfectly white, appears above a luxuriant range of yellow waving corn fields,

fields, while in the diſtance the back ground is formed from the hills of Nettlebed and the adjoining woods.

THE village of Benſon, though at preſent of little note, is extremely ancient, and formerly had the appellation of a royal vill. It was taken from the Britons in 572, and held by the Weſt Saxons for two hundred years after; when Offa, King of Mercia, being determined they ſhould hold no place on this ſide the water, forcibly poſſeſſed himſelf of it in 778.

AT a ſmall diſtance from this village formerly ſtood a beautiful ſtructure, occupied as a royal palace, called Ewelm, or New Elm, which was built by William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, but has long been ſuffered, from its unhealthy ſituation, to fall into decay. Weſt of the church a Roman road paſſed the river near this place,

and took its direction towards Sylchefter, in Hampfhire, formerly the celebrated Vindoma or Vindonum of the Romans, and the Caer Segont of the Britons.

A LITTLE below Benfon is a fpacious lock and mill, which, with the gentle fall of its waters, forming a continual cafcade, connects a pleafing felection of objects, highly worthy the exertion of an artift; and it is with regret I feel that the prefent work is fo limited as to admit but a fmall part of thofe beauties, which are ever prefenting themfelves to the eye.

SEC-

Wallingford bridge &c.

SECTION XV.

FROM Benſon lock the ancient bridge and town of Wallingford appear, at about a mile diſtance, acroſs the neighbouring meadows; but the objects are there not ſo happily combined for the pencil, as the view from below the bridge, whence the annexed ſketch was taken. The antiquity of the bridge, from its appearance, ſeems to vie with the oldeſt ſtructure of the kind on the Thames: it is truly Gothic, and of immenſe ſtrength. The pointed angular ſterlings on the upper ſide are ſo well conſtructed, as to be capable of reſiſting the moſt violent torrent of water from the winter floods. The ſpire of the church was built about eighteen years ſince, at the ſole expence of the late Judge Blackſtone; and, though ſingular in its taſte, is not an unpleaſing object.

Wallingford is ſuppoſed to have been the chief city of the Attrebatii, and is called by Antoninus, Attrebatum. Camden conjectures its Britiſh name to have been Guall-hen, which ſignifies the "old fort": from thence its preſent appellation "Wallingford" is derived. Here the ſhallowneſs of the ſtream certainly rendered it moſt commodious for the purpoſes of fording acroſs.

The town of Wallingford, in the reign of Edward the Confeſſor (which was prior to the conſtruction of the bridge) appears by Doomſday Book to have contained two hundred and ſeventy-ſix houſes, "yielding nine "pounds tax,—and thoſe that dwelt there "did the King ſervice on horſeback, or elſe "by ſea."

A fine ruin of the old caſtle preſents itſelf not far from the river ſide, formerly ſo well fortified as to be deemed impreg-

nable;

nable; which is proved from the frequent attacks made on it by King Stephen, in which he was always repulſed. The origin of this caſtle is allowed to have been as early as the invaſion of the Romans, and its demolition about the time of the Danes and Saxons. It was reſtored after the defeat of Harold, by William the Conqueror, who paſſing with his army acroſs the Thames at the ford, encamped on this ſpot before he marched to London.

It appears that this place made a vigorous defence in favour of the Empreſs Matilda, and her ſon Henry then abroad, againſt Stephen, who raiſed a conſiderable fort on the oppoſite ſide of the river at a place called Craumaſh. Henry ſoon after coming to England, attempted the relief of the place, while Stephen was equally deſirous of giving ſuccour to the beſiegers. Both parties, however being diſſatisfied with their ſituation,

wiſely

wiſely agreed to a compromiſe; and a conference being held on the banks of the Thames, the reſult was, that Stephen ſhould enjoy the crown during his life, and that Henry ſhould ſucceed him. The caſtle probably remained in a ruinated ſtate from about that period till the time of the civil wars, when an order was iſſued for its total demolition. That original order, ſigned by Thurlow, Secretary to Cromwell, was in the poſſeſſion of an Alderman of Wallingford, who died about ſix years ſince.

This town loſt much of its popularity from a dreadful plague, which happened in the year 1348; at which time, according to Leland, it contained fourteen churches; at preſent it has only three. Its conſequence, hiſtory ſays, was much diminiſhed by the building of Culham and Dorcheſter bridges, which removed great part of the traffic to Abingdon and other towns contiguous.

The manor of Wallingford was, with other manors, granted for the ſupport of the Dukedom of Cornwall, a title firſt conferred on the Black Prince, ſon of Edward III. in 1355, and which appertained to that Dukedom till the reign of Henry VIII. when Cardinal Wolſey having formed the noble deſign of erecting Chriſt Church College, at Oxford, the Monarch granted him this manor and caſtle in aid of the undertaking; but on the Cardinal's diſgrace, they reverted to the King. The caſtle remains to this day in the poſſeſſion of the college; but the manor was annexed by the Sovereign to that of Yew Elm, or New Elm, near Benſon.

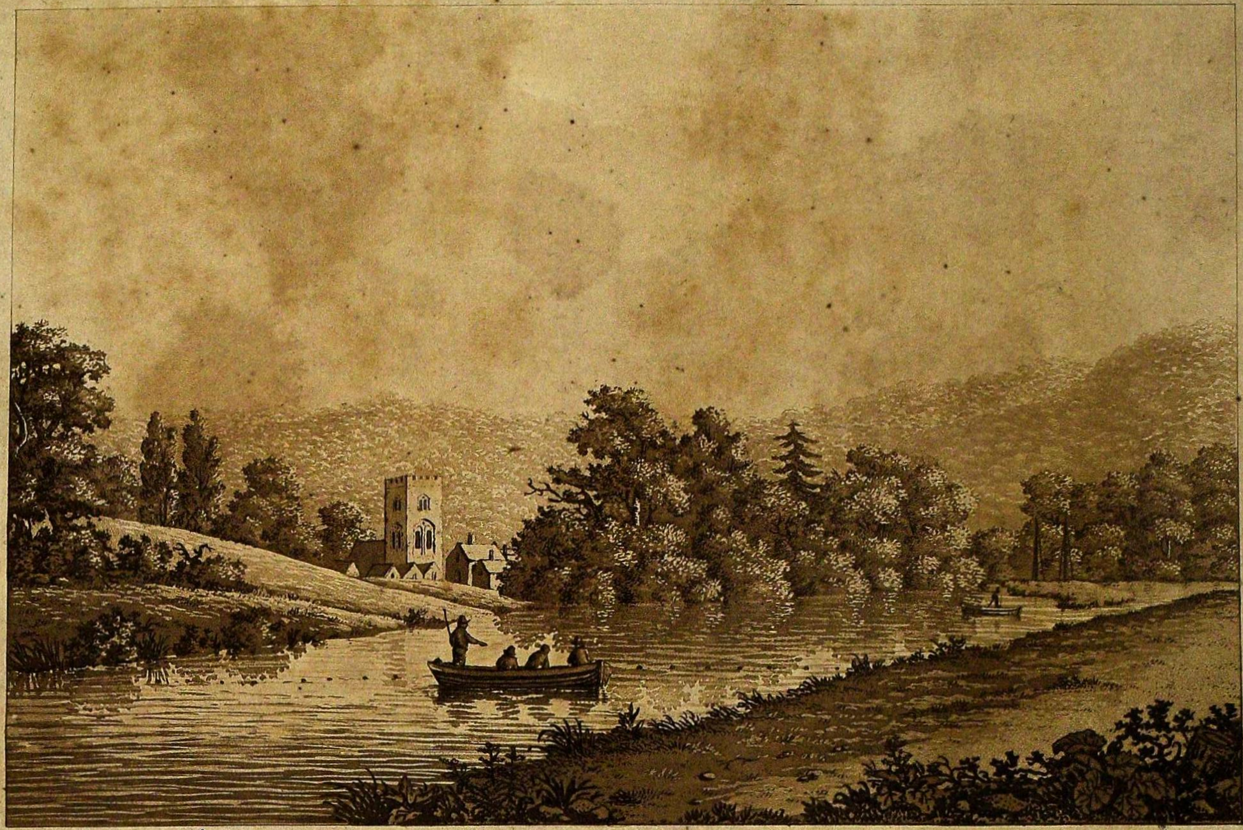
Within the weſt gate of the town formerly ſtood a priory of black monks, which belonged to the Abbey of St. Alban's, and which was ſuppreſſed by order of Wolſey. This ſuppreſſion, it is conjectured, might have given a colour of ſanction to the King

for

for proceeding farther in a general ſeizure of all eccleſiaſtical revenues; but it does not appear by his general conduct, that he ſtood in need of any example of rapacity.

Near Brightwell, adjoining to Wallingford, formerly ſtood a caſtle, of which no traces are now remaining. It was taken by ſtorm previous to the concluſion of the peace between King Henry and Stephen.

A little below the town of Wallingford, at Mongewell, on the Oxfordſhire ſide of the river, the late Biſhop of Saliſbury, Dr. Barrington, has choſen a delightful retreat, richly emboſomed, amidſt a thicket of trees. Full in view of the houſe a beautiful verdant lawn ſkirts the borders of the Thames, which, gliding at a pleaſing diſtance from it, gradually makes its courſe with a conſiderable increaſe of water towards the village of Moulsford, while the diſtant



Goreing: Oxfordshire.

diſtant Oxfordſhire hills preſent a beautiful termination of the ſcene.

Cleve mill and lock, a little lower down the ſtream, meet the eye before we reach the picturesque combination of objects at the village of Goring, whoſe romantic and ſequeſtered ſituation it is not poſſible for the eye of obſervation to paſs unnoticed. The Berkſhire hills form a richly variegated back-ground, and the eaſy aſcent of the lawns in the front happily interſect the principal objects, and give a charming relief to the whole. In the annexed view this ſcene is faintly repreſented; yet faint as it is, it cannot fail to ſtrike the admirer of ſimple nature in landſcape, as a combination of objects worthy to be impreſſed on the mind.

The village of Streetly on the oppoſite ſide the river, has equal claim to notice; it is ſituated on a Roman highway near Ickenild-

ſtreet, which here enters Berkſhire, and runs acroſs the neighbouring downs, paſſing Baſſelden; near which place, on an eaſy aſcent from the borders of the river, ſtands the grotto-houſe, lately the reſidence of Mr. Sykes. It is happily ſcreened by the Berkſhire hills, and was originally occupied by Lady Fane, whoſe ſhells and corals may perhaps be thought to have been too highly complimented, in ſome lines preſerved in Dodſley's Miſcellanies.

THE village of Gathanton is a pleaſing object on the Oxfordſhire ſide the river, from whence we enter a beautiful encloſure, formed by the ſurrounding woods. The happy ſerenity of the approaching evening gives an air of ſolemnity to the ſcene, while the moon, faintly riſing, gleams through the beautifully variegated trees. The profound ſtillneſs of the air was not unpleaſantly diſturbed by the largeſt flight of ravens, daws,

&c.

&c. that I remember to have ſeen; it conſiſted of ſome thouſands, who nightly croſs the river to take up their abode among the neighbouring woods.

At a ſmall diſtance from the river, on the Berkſhire ſide, Sir Francis Sykes has erected a ſpacious manſion, which is ſecluded from the view by the intercepting hills. The houſe, though ſuperbly furniſhed, is ſtill wanting in the more elegant decorations of the fine arts, which have not yet gained admiſſion.

At Pangbourn the river widens conſiderably, and the fall of water is ſo great on the opening of the lock, as to cauſe much delay in the progreſs of the navigation. This place is much frequented by the angler, who, in his favourite purſuit, may occaſionally find equal cauſe for an exertion of his patience as his ſkill in the art. Among the va-

rious ſorts of fiſh produced in this part of the river, the pike in particular is found of a remarkable large ſize.

The village of Whitchurch, on the oppoſite ſide, preſents no unpleaſing object in landſcape. The road from Pangbourn towards Reading runs, for a conſiderable diſtance, nearly parallel with the river, and affords in many places a rich and variegated ſcenery.

Purley-Hall, about a mile diſtance, is the reſidence of Warren Haſtings, Eſq. Its appearance ſeems by no means ſuited in point of elegance to the ſplendor of an Eaſtern Governor. It is ſomewhat ſingular, that the greater part of this houſe was erected by the famous Mr. Hawes, the great South-Sea defaulter.

Lower down, on the Oxfordſhire ſide of the river, at Hardwick, is the reſidence of Mr.

Mr. Gardener, formerly in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Powis. It is happily ſheltered by the neighbouring hills, and at an agreeable diſtance from the river. This houſe was probably in former times a monaſtery; and its ſituation is choſen with that degree of attention to the conveniencies, and even luxuries, of this tranſitory ſtate, for which the founders of moſt of our religious houſes have been famed.

A SMALL diſtance from hence is the village of Maple-Durham, contiguous to which is a fine old manſion, occupied by Mr. Blount; which, by the ſtyle of its architecture, ſeems to have been built about the period of Elizabeth or James. It ſtands at the extremity of the village, and its grand front commands a rich and beautiful park; but the oppoſite ſide towards the river is ſo walled in, and encumbered with out-buildings, as to baniſh the

river

river ſcenery, which can alone give a complete finiſh to a picturesque view.

From hence the ſtream bends its courſe towards Caverſham, a diſtance of about three miles, which affords but little variety of ſcenery. The warren in the neighbourhood of Caverſham is very extenſive, and commands a beautiful view acroſs the river.

Caversham-bridge. Oxfordshire.

SECTION XVI.

THE ſcenery towards Caverſham, as we approach the bridge, is much confined, nothing preſenting itſelf but a faint view of the old Abbey gate, at Reading: I have therefore ſelected the eaſtern view of the bridge, as beſt adapted to illuſtrate the preſent purſuit, where the tower of the old church and part of the village appearing in the fore-ground, with the range of hills in the diſtance, give a tolerable idea of the country.

CAVERSHAM had formerly a ſmall priory, which was a cell to the monaſtery at Nottely, in Buckinghamſhire. In the Philoſophical Tranſactions, No. 261, is the following ſingular circumſtance in Natural Hiſtory: "There was diſcovered in the neigh-
" bour-

" bourhood a large ſtratum of oyſter-ſhells,
" lying on a bed of green ſand, and extend-
" ing to five or ſix acres of ground, with
" a bed of blueiſh clay immediately above
" it. Among theſe many were found with
" both the valves or ſhells lying together,
" and though in moving them, one of the
" valves hath frequently broke off from its
" fellow, it is plain by comparing and join-
" ing them, that they originally belonged to
" each other."

The town of Reading, with its churches and the remains of the abbey and caſtle, forms a noble and extended view acroſs the Forebury, as it is vulgarly called, or rather the Fauxbourg or ſuburbs.

Reading, the moſt conſiderable town in the county, is ſituated on the Thames and Kennett, which latter riſes near Merdon in Wiltſhire,

Wiltſhire, and is navigable for veſſels of an hundred tons burthen, from Newbury to this town, through which it takes its courſe in ſeveral conſiderable ſtreams, and abounds with gudgeons, pike, eels, dace and trout, the latter of which grow to an amazing ſize.

Of Reading Caſtle, which Leland conjectures ſtood at the Weſt end of Caſtle-ſtreet, no remains are now diſcoverable; it is therefore more probable, that on the ruins we find near the precincts of the abbey, the caſtle ſtood, which was the retreat of the Danes in 871, where they fortified themſelves after their defeat by King Alfred. In the next year it was abandoned to the Saxons, who deſtroyed the town; and in the reign of Henry II. this caſtle was totally demoliſhed, as being a place of refuge for the adherents of King Stephen.

The abbey was founded by Henry I. on

the ſite. of a ſmall nunnery, erected by the mother of Edward the Martyr, to expiate his death, which was perpetrated by one of her domeſtics. It was endowed with great revenues for two hundred Benedictine monks, and dedicated to the Virgin and a numerous liſt of Saints. In riches and magnificence it certainly vied with any abbey in the kingdom, and its abbots being mitred ſat in the Houſe of Peers, and aſſumed a high authority, which Henry VIII. in no ſmall degree humbled, by hanging up Farrington, the laſt abbot of this place, with two of his monks, for refuſing to ſurrender, on the demand of the viſitors, ſoon after the Reformation. It is remarkable, that on the ſame day the abbot of Glaſtonbury ſuffered the like puniſhment for the ſame offence.

This abbey has been the burial-place of many royal and noble perſons, among whom the remains of a part of Henry I. the foun-

der

der, were depofited—I fay a part, for Dr. Ducarel obferves, that his heart, eyes, tongue, brains and bowels, were conveyed to the priory church of Notre Dame du Pres, at Rouen, in Normandy. His fecond Queen, Adeliza, and his daughter, the Emprefs Maud, were likewife interred here. This royal dame was daughter of a King—wife to a King (Henry IV. Emperor of Germany)—and mother to King Henry II. The following diftich was infcribed on her tomb:

"Magna ortu, majorque viro, fed maxima partu,
"Hic jacet Henrici filia, fponfa, parens.

LITTLE remains of this extenfive abbey, except part of Our Lady's chapel, and the refectory, which is upwards of eighty feet long, and forty broad—an ample fpace for the luxuriant tables of the pampered abbots, where

"Triumphant Plenty, with a cheerful grace,
"Bafk'd in their eyes, and fparkled in their face:

" No learn'd debates annoy'd their downy trance,
" Or difcompos'd their pompous ignorance.
" Deep funk in down, they, by Sloth's gentle care,
" Shunn'd the inclemencies of morning air,
" And left to tatter'd crape—the drudgery of pray'r."

The anecdote of King Harry and one of the Abbots of Reading, though well known, has fo much humour that I cannot avoid repeating it verbatim from Fuller's Church Hiftory——He calls it " A " pleafant and true ftory:—King Henry " VIII. as he was hunting in Windfor Fo- " reft, either cafually loft, or (more proba- " bly) wilfully lofing himfelf, ftruck down " about dinner-time to the Abbey of Rea- " ding, when difguifing himfelf, much for " delight, (more for difcovery to fee unfeen) " he was invited to the Abbot's table, and " paffed for one of the King's guards, a " place to which the proportion of his per- " fon might properly entitle him. A fir " loyn of beef was fet before him, (fo knight-

" ed,

" ed, faith tradition, by this King Henry ;)
" on which the King laid on luftily, not dif-
" gracing one of that place, for whom he
" was miftaken. Well fare thy heart,
" (quoth the Abbot) and here in a cup
" of fack I remember the health of his
" Grace your Mafter ; I would give an hun-
" dred pounds on the condition I could feed
" fo heartily on beef as you doe. Alas ! my
" weak and fqueafie ftomach will hardly
" digeft the wing of a fmall rabbet or chicken.
" The King pleafantly pledged him, and
" heartily thanked him for his good chear ;
" after dinner departed, as undifcovered as
" he came thither. Some weeks after, the
" Abbot was fent for by a Purfuivant,
" brought up to London, clapt in the
" tower, kept clofe prifoner, fed for a fhort
" time on bread and water ; yet not fo empty
" his body of food, as his mind was filled
" with fears, creating many fufpitions to
" himfelf, when, and how he had incurred
" the

" the King's difpleafure. At laft a fir-loin
" of beef was fet before him, on which the
" Abbot fed as the farmer of his grange,
" and verified the proverb, that two hungry
" meals make the third a glutton. In fprings
" King Henry, out of a private lobbie, where
" he had placed himfelf the invifible fpec-
" tator of the Abbot's behaviour; My Lord,
" (quoth the King) prefently depofit your
" hundred pounds in gold, or elfe no going
" hence all the daies of your life. I have
" been your phyfician, to cure you of your
" fqueazie ftomach; and here, as I deferve, I
" demand my fee for the fame. The Abbot
" down with his duft, and glad he had
" efcaped fo, returning to Reading, as fome-
" what lighter in purfe, fo much more mer-
" rier in heart than when he came thence."

A GREAT part of the remains of this venerable abbey, were removed a few years fince by General Conway, for the purpofe of building

building a bridge contiguous to Park-place, on the road between Henley and Wargrave. The great gate of the abbey, of which I have prefixed a ſketch at the end of this ſection, though it has undergone many material alterations, is in very good repair. It had formerly embattlements, the loſs of which has conſiderably diminiſhed its venerable appearance.

NEARLY oppoſite to Reading, is the noble manſion built by the Earl of Cadogan; it is ſituated on an eminence, and commands a very extenſive and diverſified view of Berkſhire, and the adjacent countries. The honours of this family were derived from William Cadogan, who ſignalized himſelf under the great Duke of Marlborough. He was firſt created Baron Reading, and afterwards, Viſcount Caverſham. The houſe is now occupied by Major Marſac.

A LITTLE

A LITTLE below Reading, the river Kennett, gently winding through the adjacent meadows, unites itſelf with the Thames, which is here conſiderably expanded in its courſe towards Sunning Bridge,—a diſtance of about three miles.

SEC-

Sunning-bridge &c. Berks.

SECTION XVII.

SUNNING Bridge is a plain modern ſtructure of brick, well adapted for convenience and durability. The annexed view was taken from below the bridge, as the objects there combined moſt happily to afford a pictureſque landſcape. The houſe, which appears over the bridge, is the reſidence of Lady Rich, whoſe family has long occupied this ſpot.

THE village of Sunning is agreeably ſituated on an eaſy aſcent on the banks of the Thames, and is of great antiquity, it was formerly the ſee of a Biſhop, whoſe dioceſe included the counties of Berks and Wiltſhire. The ſee was afterwards removed to Sherbourn, and thence tranſlated to Saliſ-

bury, whoſe Biſhop is now Lord of the Manor of Sunning, and formerly had a palace there.

The antiquity of this place is ſtrongly marked by the ſepulchral monuments and ancient inſcriptions within the church, one of which containing ſome lines on two infants of the family of Rich above mentioned, I am induced from their ſtyle to inſert:

"The father's air, the mother's look,
"The ſportive ſmile, and pretty joke,
"The roſy lips, ſweet babbling grace,
"The beauties of the mind and face,
"And all the charms of infant ſouls,
"This tomb within its boſom holds."

The river Kennet waſhes this place, into which a ſmall rivulet, called the Loddon, empties itſelf, previous to its junction with the Thames, which is here of conſiderable width, and ample depth of water, but affords

fords no great variety of ſcenery, for near three miles, till we reach Cotterell's Mill and Lock, which objects, though humble in themſelves, yet conſtitute a very pictureſque ſcene, highly deſerving obſervation.

The village of Wargrave, appearing at a ſmall diſtance, has acquired much celebrity by the reſidence of Lord Barrymore. The dwelling, which is ſituated on a lawn, cloſe to the river ſide, though but an inſignificant cottage, has, from its innumerable viſitors, given riſe to no inconſiderable expence.

The theatre, of which ſo much has been ſaid, is juſt rebuilt, at an expence of about ſix thouſand pounds, and is, in point of ſize, I think, larger than that of the Haymarket. It has every accommodation of a royal theatre, with the addition of one elegant apartment, which is uſed as a ſupper-room.

The present rage for theatrical exhibitions, and imaginary ſcenes of human woe, it is much to be feared has produced many a real ſcene of diſtreſs, towards the laſt act, that has been incompatible with the ſtrictneſs of dramatic law, having neither poetical nor moral juſtneſs in the denouement of the plot.

From Wargrave a beautiful range of hills extends to General Conway's, at Park Place, near which a large houſe has been recently built, by Mr. Hill, commanding a very extenſive view of Oxfordſhire, Buckinghamſhire, &c. The river winding beneath this noble eminence, affords new beauties of the ſoft and elegant in pictureſque landſcape. The houſe of Lady Taylor, on the Oxfordſhire ſide of the river, is enviably ſituated, and compriſes a full view of General Conway's grounds, to which you enter beneath a ſpacious arch of ruſtic ſtone work, happily

ſuited

ſuited to the noble ſcenery which preſents itſelf within, where the verdant ſwelling lawn meeting the eye, forms an immenſe amphitheatre, ſurrounded with rich ſhrubbery, from whence, by an eaſy aſcent, we are led to a grand colonade, repreſenting a Roman aqueduct, falling into decay, and majeſtic even in ruins. Its decorations of buſts and ornaments are judiciouſly adapted to their ſituation. A winding ſubterraneous paſſage leads on to the menagerie, which contains a beautiful ſelection of the feather'd race; among which the Eaſt India cyrus conſiderably larger than the crane, the ſilver pencilled pheaſant, from China, with black breaſt and red legs, and the elegant plumage of the gold pheaſant, appeared to be moſt worthy of admiration.

The various and extenſive views from the different points, in traverſing this park, are ſo

ſo happily and richly diverſified, as to ſurpaſs deſcription. On a well choſen eminence, the right honourable poſſeſſor of this beautiful ſpot, has, at a great expence, erected an ancient Druids temple, which was preſented to him by the inhabitants of the iſland of Jerſey, in 1785, as a teſtimony of the reſpect and veneration due to his vigilance as a governor, and his amiable qualities as a man. The following lines, which were tranſmitted with this venerable pile of antiquity, will beſt ſpeak the ſentiments of the inhabitants on the occaſion—

" Cet ancien Temple des Druides,
" Decouvert le 12 Aout 1785,
" Sur la Montagne de St. Helier
" Dans l'ile de Jerſey,
" A été préſenté par les habitans,
" A ſon Excellence le General Conway,
leur Gouverneur.

" Pour des Siecles caché, aux regard des mortels,
" Cet ancien monument, ces pierres, ces autels,

" Où

"Où le ſang des humains offert en ſacrifice,
"Ruiſſela, pour des Dieux qu'en fantoit le caprice;
"Ce monument ſans prix par ſon antiquité,
"Temoignera pour nous á la poſtérité;
"Que dans tous les dangers Ceſarée eut un pére
"Et redira, Conway, aux ſiécles ávenir
"Quén vertu du reſpect dû a ce ſouvenir
"Elle te fit ce don, acquis a ta vaillance
"Comme un juſte tribut de ſa reconnoiſance."

THE ſtones which compoſe this temple, are forty-five in number, and were all ſo carefully marked when taken down, as to be with eaſe reſtored to their original form, when brought to this ſpot. The circumference of the temple is ſixty-ſix feet; its height upwards of ſeven. Within this building, in its original ſituation in the iſle of Jerſey, were found two medals, one of the Emperor Claudius, the other ſo obliterated by time, as to be unintelligible. For a more minute account of this antiquity, I refer the curious to the 8th vol. of the Archæologia;

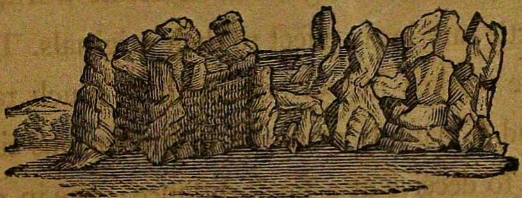
and

and for a ſketch of it, as it now ſtands, to the end of this ſection.

Having traverſed theſe charming grounds in which the hand of nature has been ſo peculiarly luxuriant, we were highly gratified within the dwelling-houſe, by a view of the no leſs excellent productions of art, by the noble Counteſs of Ayleſbury, whoſe imitations of Cuyp, Roſa de Tivoli, Vandyck, Gainſborough, &c. in needle-work, are little inferior in effect to their originals. They are worked in worſteds, with ſo much taſte, and ſo happily managed in the various tints, as to deceive at a ſmall diſtance; one in particular, a portrait from Vandyck, in which the colours are ſo artfully blended, appears acroſs the room, a ſketch of that great maſter.

Quitting the enchanting ſcenery of Park-place, by an eaſy deſcent towards the river-

river-ſide, the bridge and town of Henley, at the diſtance of about a mile and a half, preſent a ſcene, which, though more confined, is yet happily contraſted with the extenſive one we have juſt quitted.



Henley-bridge. Oxon.

SECTION XVIII.

THE elegant bridge of Henley confifts of five eliptical arches, with a handfome balluftrade of ftone-work, and is, in point of fimplicity and beauty of defign, equal to any ftructure of the kind on this noble river. It is built from a plan of the late ingenious Mr. Hayward, of Shropfhire, who did not live to fee the work begun.

ON the key-ftone of the center arch, above the bridge, is fculptured a head of ISIS; and on the other fide, a venerable head of THAMES; both from the chifel of the accomplifhed Mrs. Damer, the excellence of whofe works is too well known to need any comment.

This beautiful bridge was finiſhed in the year 1787, at an expence of near ten thouſand pounds. The former one was of wood, but the one prior to that was of ſtone, and of a very ancient date. Some traces of its piers are yet viſible when the water is low. Camden ſeems doubtful, whether this was the bridge over which, according to Dio, the Romans purſued the Britons, who, he aſſerts, croſſed the river in this neighbourhood.

The town of Henley is of great antiquity, and by ſome writers ſaid to be the oldeſt town in the county; it anciently belonged to the family of the Molins, from whence it came to the Hungerfords, by whoſe means, in the reign of Henry VI. a licence was obtained for two annual fairs: at preſent it has four. Little remains in this town, worthy the attention of the curious. Its delightful ſituation on the Thames,

and the richneſs of the adjacent country, muſt ever render it an object to be admired.

A LITTLE below Henley Bridge is Fawley Court, the ſeat of Mr. Freeman. It is a ſquare brick houſe, built by Inigo Jones, on which he has beſtowed very few of thoſe Italian ornaments that ſo frequently overload many of his deſigns. The ſtructure is very plain, and convenience has judiciouſly taken place of every other conſideration. It is altogether a work not unworthy of its great architect. The ſituation is happily choſen in point of diſtance from the river, as well as from the town of Henley.

THE mauſoleum belonging to the family is at the pleaſant village of Fawley, about a mile and a half diſtant from the houſe, and is a ſpot that a man would rather chuſe to live in than be buried at.

About two miles from Fawley Court, is the pleaſant village of Hambleton, the church of which contains a beautiful monument in alabaſter, erected by the D'Oyley family. It conſiſts of twelve figures, as large as life, executed in ſo ſuperior a ſtyle of ſculpture, and ſo well preſerved, as highly to deſerve attention. The poetry of the epitaphs has much merit, and, as it records the virtues of a family in this county, of great celebrity, juſtly claims a place in this work.

" To the memory of that noble Knight,
" Sir Cope D'Oyley, late Deputy of the
" county of Oxon, &c. heyre of the an-
" cient family of the D'Oyley's, in Oxford-
" ſhire; founder of Oſeney and Miſſenden,
" and the caſtle of Oxford: who put on
" immortality, the 4th of Auguſt, 1633.—
" Likewiſe Marthe his wife, with five ſons
" and five daughters."

Under the Knight's figure are the following lines:

"Aſk not of me, who's buried here?
"Goe aſk the Commons, aſk the Sheire.
"Goe aſk the Church, they'll tell thee who,
"As well as blubber'd eyes can do.
"Goe aſk the Heraulds, aſk the poore,
"Thine ears ſhall hear enough to aſk no more.
"Then, if thine eyes bedew this ſacred urne,
"Each drop a pearl will turne
"T' adorn his tombe, or if thou can'ſt not vent,
"Thou bring'ſt more marble to his monument."

Under the Lady's figure follows this exemplary character, which, as the world goes, may be thought a little exaggerated:

"Wouldſt thou, reader, draw to life,
"The perfect copy of a wife,
"Read on, and then redeem from ſhame
"That loſt, that honourable name;
"This duſt was once in ſpirit a Jael,
"Rebecca in grace, in heart an Abigail;
"In works a Dorcas, to the church a Hanna,
"And to her ſpouſe Suſanna.
"Prudently ſimple, providently wary,
"To the world a Martha, and to heav'n a Mary

In a fine ſituation, on the banks of the river, between Henley and Great Marlow, ſtand the remains of the ſmall abbey of Medenham, rendered famous by a modern convention of monks, whoſe Abbot was a noble Peer. If we may judge by the old French motto, "Fay ce que voudras," which is ſtill remaining over their door, the principles of theſe lay brothers, it may be preſumed, were not quite ſo rigid as thoſe of the monks of La Trappe.

Of the myſteries of this fraternity various accounts have been handed about, probably none of them with authority. The only printed one I have met with is in Chryſal, or the Adventures of a Guinea; where the author's account of this inſtitution far exceeds that of the Alcoran des Cordeliers, or any other author who has written on the ſubject. He deſcribes their tenets in ſo offenſive and diſguſting a point of view, as to have

have rendered the recital of them unworthy a place, even in Romance; and, for the honour of human nature, gives us every reason to hope that his deſcription is not founded on truth.

LITTLE remains of the furniture of this pious ſeminary, but an enormous large cradle of ſufficient dimenſions to receive the fulleſt ſized friar of that or any other order. The abbey is now occupied by a poor family, who ſhew this valuable relick.

THIS abbey was founded as early as King John, and was a cell to the Ciſtertian monks of Wooburn in Bedfordſhire. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was made part of the endowment of Buſtleſham or Biſham Abbey, in Berkſhire. From the return made by the commiſſioners, at the Diſſolution, it appears from its poverty to have been of ſmall import, having only two monks, "who both "deſyren to go to houſes of religion—ſer-

" vants none, woods none, debts none—
" bells, &c. worth 2l. 1s. 8d.—the houſe
" wholly in ruins, and the value of the
" moveable goods only 1l. 3s. 8d."

The ſketch at the end of this ſection is a faithful view of the preſent ſtate of this building.

The faſcinating ſcenery of this neighbourhood has peculiarly attracted the notice of the clergy of former periods, who, in ſpite of the thorny and crooked ways, which they have aſſerted to be the ſureſt road to heaven, have been careful to ſelect ſome flowery paths for their own private journeying thither; among which ranks Hurley Place, on the oppoſite ſide the river, now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Wilcox. It was formerly a monaſtery under the appellation of Lady Place, and a cell of Benedictine monks to Weſtminſter Abbey, founded by Geoffry de Mandeville, in the reign of William the Con-

Conqueror, the only remains of which are the Abbey Yard, and ſome part of a chapel, or perhaps refectory (now ſtables) of which the arches of the windows, though made of chalk in the Conqueror's reign, are ſtill freſh as if lately built. Some farther ſlight remains of the convent may likewiſe be traced. Under the great hall is a vault, in which ſome bodies, in monkiſh habits, were diſcovered not many years ago.

On the diſſolution of the monaſtery, Hurley became the poſſeſſion of a family, whoſe name was Chamberlain, from whence it deſcended to —— Lovelace, Eſq; whoſe ſon went on an expedition with Sir Francis Drake, and with the Spaniſh gold obtained in that enterprize, built the preſent houſe, on the ruins of the ancient convent. The family of Lovelace was ennobled by Charles I. The houſe is ſpacious, and built much in the ſtyle of King James's Gothic. The hall,

 as

as was the faſhion of that day, occupies half the ſpace of the houſe. The grand ſaloon is decorated in a ſingular ſtyle; in the pannels are painted upright landſcapes, the leafings of which are executed with a kind of ſilver lacker. The views appear to be Italian, they are in a bold ſtyle, and reputed to be the work of Salvator Roſa, expreſsly painted for this apartment. His receipt for them is ſaid to be in the hands of Mr. Wilcox; but as that gentleman was from home when I viewed the houſe, I cannot vouch for the truth of the aſſertion.

DURING the reign of Charles II. private meetings of the principal nobility were held in a ſubterraneous vault beneath this houſe, for calling in the Prince of Orange. Mr. Wilcox has, at the end of this vault, cauſed to be written an inſcription, which I ſhall tranſcribe in his own words:

" Dust and aſhes! Mortality and viciſſi-
" tude to all! Be it remembered, that the
" monaſtery of Lady Place (of which this
" vault was the burial cavern) was founded
" at the time of the great Norman revolu-
" tion, by which revolution the whole ſtate
" of England was changed.

" Hi motus animorum, atque hæc certamina tanta,
" Pulveris exiqui jactu compreſſa quieſcunt.

" Be it alſo remembered, that in this
" place, 600 years afterwards, the revolution
" of 1688 was begun. This houſe was
" then in the poſſeſſion of Lord Lovelace,
" by whom private meetings of the nobility
" were aſſembled in this vault, and, as it is
" ſaid that ſeveral conſultations for calling
" in the Prince of Orange, were likewiſe
" held in this receſs, on which account this
" vault was viſited by that powerful Prince
" after he had aſcended the throne. It was
" viſited by General Paoli in 1780, and by
" King

" King George III. and his Queen, 14th
" November, 1785."

On the decline of the Lovelace family, the eſtate came into the poſſeſſion of the Duke of Marlborough, of whom the manſion-houſe and woodlands were purchaſed, by Mrs. Williams,* ſiſter to Dr. Wilcox, late Biſhop of Rocheſter; from whom it devolved to her nephew, the Biſhop's ſon, its preſent worthy poſſeſſor, whoſe exemplary goodneſs of heart is an honour to humanity. The ſituation of this houſe, were it unincumbered from ſome of its Gothic walls and out-buildings, would be delightful. It commands a rich proſpect of the Buckinghamſhire hills and Marlow woods; amidſt which, at Hurley-ford, Mr. Clayton, the late member, built

* This lady held in one lottery, two fortunate tickets, one of 500l. the other of 20,000l. which enabled her to make this purchaſe.

the

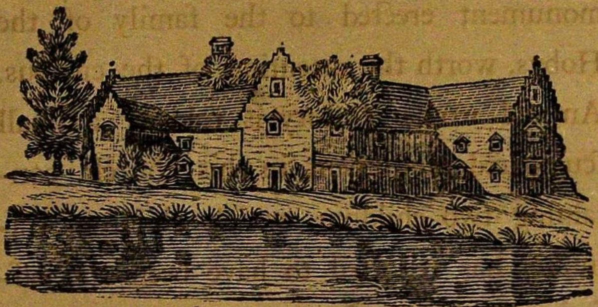
the preſent charming villa, on an eaſy ſlope, riſing from the margin of the river, which compriſes a fine view in each direction, particularly towards Biſham Abbey, now occupied by Mr. Vanſittart, but formerly by Sir John Hoby Mill.

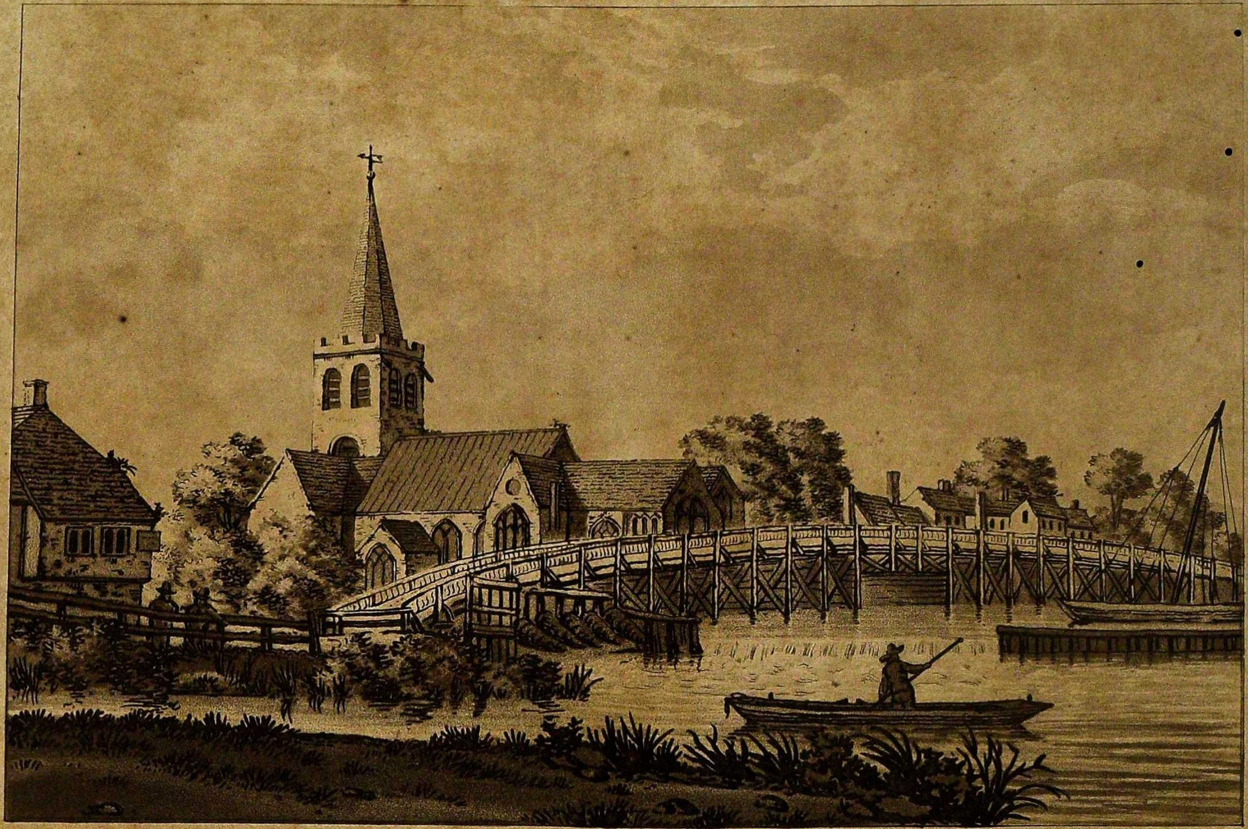
The ſite of this abbey was originally granted by Edward VI. to the Hoby family. It is ſingular, that in its firſt charter, it was dedicated to our Lord Jeſus Chriſt and the Bleſſed Virgin, his mother; in the ſecond, to the Bleſſed Virgin Mary only; and in the time of Richard II. it is ſtyled the Conventual Church of the Holy Trinity. It is rather difficult to account for the propriety of theſe various dedications; however, after being thus banded about, it at length fell into the hands of Henry VIII. who claiming a right paramount to the bleſſed ſaints, ſeized on it with all its privileges, to his own uſe and benefit. That Prince often viſited

visited this abbey; and in the possession of the late Sir Joseph Ayloffe was a Masque, printed by Caxton, which was presented to the King, on his approach to the abbey, with the Dramatis Personæ of the family there resident. Queen Elizabeth resided some time in this house; and one large state apartment yet retains the name of the Queen's council-chamber.

In the church of Bysham is a sumptuous monument erected to the family of the Hobys, worth the attention of the curious. An old woman's story is told of a small sculptured monument in this church, containing two children, which children, Calumny has reported to have been the offspring of Elizabeth; but we have reason to believe, from her Majesty's general system of politics, in public concerns, that she would have been too good a politician in love, to have erected a monument, avowing herself

not to have been the character which ſhe was ſo ambitious to preſerve—the virgin Queen. The bones of the founder of this abbey, John Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury, are ſaid to have been removed hither, by Maud, his widow, from the abbey of Cirenceſter, by a licenſe from Henry V. for that purpoſe.





Marlow bridge &c.

SECTION XX.

FROM Bifham Abbey, the town of Marlow, confidered as a picturefque object, receives much addition from the New Bridge, which is of wood, and has been recently finifhed at an expence of about eighteen hundred pounds. It has a remarkable afcent, and forms the beft object as a wooden bridge, that I remember to have feen. The balluftrades are painted white, in imitation of ftone-work; and the whole fcenery contiguous is pleafingly variegated by the rich verdure of the adjacent woods.

BELOW the bridge, the objects combine moft happily for the pencil, where the river branches out into two channels, one of which (the water being penned up by the Marlow Lock) caufes a perpetual fall into the other

 ftream,

ſtream, juſt below the bridge, which makes a pleaſing, though ſhallow, caſcade.

BETWEEN this lock and Batterſea, which is a diſtance of about fifty miles, in all the deep waters, the lampreys are caught in great plenty in the ſpring of the year, and are ſold to the Dutch as bait for their turbot and other fiſheries. In one ſeaſon, it is ſaid, there have been ſold not leſs than five hundred thouſand. The price of the lampreys was forty ſhillings per thouſand; but the Dutch having lately contracted for an increaſed quantity, at ſixty ſhillings, it has rendered them ſo ſcarce, as to raiſe the price for our own uſe to nearly ſix pounds. The Thames has ſometimes furniſhed upwards of a million of this fiſh annually.

MARLOW is remarkable for its manufactory of bone-lace, and the great quantities of malt and meal, which are brought hither from

from the neighbouring towns, and conveyed to London by water.

It may not be improper to remark, that in the reign of Elizabeth, about the year 1584, the locks between this and Oxford, from neglect, created much complaint and altercation. At Marlow Lock many lives were loft from the fudden and immenfe fall of water, and neglect of the millers; in confequence of which, complaint was made to the Lord Treafurer, in October, 1585, and anfwered the next day by the perfons concerned in locks, weirs, and mills, when it was determined, that all diforders arifing from neglect, &c. were to be reformed by the ordinary proceedings of the Queen's Majefty's laws, and not otherwife.

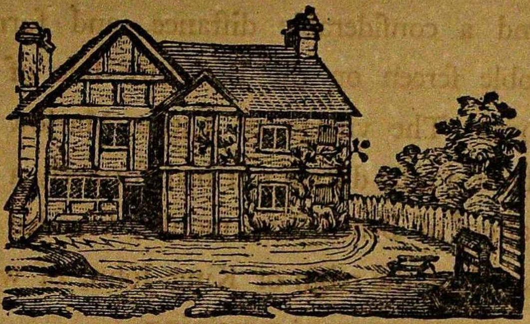
At that period there were feventy locks, twenty-two of which were erected within the laft fix years; fixteen flood-gates, and feven weirs: there were then not more than ten

ten or twelve barges went ſo high as Marlow or Biſham, and in the reign of Edward IV. it appears there were only four. This ſtream was let at that period for three hundred pounds per annum.

THE ſcenery of this neighbourhood is truly beautiful: the Quarry Woods extend a conſiderable diſtance, and form a noble ſcreen on the Berkſhire ſide of the river. The village of Little Marlow lies about a mile diſtant; it had formerly a monaſtery of Benedictine monks, founded earlier than the reign of King John, of which no traces are now remaining.

A LITTLE below this village is Hedſor Wharf; and let me not be cenſured in the digreſſion, when I lead the reader thence to the ſmall village of St. Giles, Chalfont, in Bucks. a diſtance of about five miles, in order to mention the name and reſidence of the

the immortal Milton. Here, when the plague in 1665 raged in London, this much revered poet took refuge. The houſe in which he reſided, and of which I have preſerved the annexed ſketch, is now ſtanding, and, in all probability, from its appearance, remains nearly in its original ſtate.



As the biography of great and learned men has been deemed worthy the pens of writers of the firſt talents, any pictorial illuſtration of that biography, it is preſumed, will not be thought unworthy the attention of

of the curious. This houſe was taken for him by Elwood the Quaker, who was recommended as a proper perſon to read Latin to him, and be his ſolacer in retirement. Here his companion firſt ſaw a complete copy of the divine poem, Paradiſe Loſt, which was finiſhed on this ſpot: and here, in all probability, the greater part of the Paradiſe Regained was written; as it is well-known that his friend Elwood ſuggeſted this idea to him (after reading the firſt poem) in theſe words: " Thou haſt ſaid a great deal " on the ſubject of Paradiſe Loſt, but what " haſt thou to ſay on Paradiſe Found?" To which he made no anſwer, but ſat ſome time muſing, then broke off the diſcourſe, and fell upon another ſubject. Some time after, when in London, Milton ſhewed him the Paradiſe Regained; and in a pleaſant tone of voice ſaid to him, " This is owing " to you, for you put it into my head, by " the

" the queſtion you put to me at Chalfont,
" which before I had not thought of."

In the neighbourhood of this village, it may not be improper to mention Beaconsfield, the reſidence of another poet of diſtinguiſhed eminence—the courtly Waller—to whom Fortune had dealt with much more liberality; and to whom, though Nature had given brilliant talents, yet ſhe had certainly been more ſparing than with the immortal Milton. As a lyric poet Waller ſtands unrivalled, and in tenderneſs of ſtyle is juſtly ſaid to have moved all hearts but hers he meant to move.

" Yet, what he ſung, in his immortal ſtrain,
" Tho' unſucceſsful, was not ſung in vain;
" All, but the nymph that ſhould redreſs his wrong,
" Attend his paſſion, and approve his ſong."

He died at Beaconsfield, in 1687, at the advanced age of eighty-two, after having conſulted Sir Charles Scarborough, on a vi-

olent tumor in his legs, which ſoon ended in his diſſolution. One day, aſking what that ſwelling meant; his phyſician replied, "Sir, your blood will run no longer:"— on which, according to his biographer, he repeated ſome lines of Virgil, and went home to die. A handſome monument is erected to his memory, by his ſon's executors, on the eaſt ſide of the church-yard, near the family vault, where an old walnut-tree is yet remaining, at the weſt end of the monument, carefully encloſed within the iron rails around the tomb; part of the branches hanging over the ſpiral pillar that riſes from the monument, has a pleaſing effect, and happily illuſtrates the rebus alluded to in the family arms, which is a walnut-leaf. The Latin inſcription on the monument is by Rymer.

A SHORT ride from hence to the ſeat of the Duke of Portland, at Bulſtrode, will amply

amply repay the attention of the connoiſſeur, where he will meet with a ſelection of pictures by the beſt maſters, worthy the manſion of their liberal and noble poſſeſſor.

Resuming the ſubject—the river from Hedſor Wharf winds beautifully beneath the range of Cliefden Hills, commanding a diſtant view of Lord Boſton's and Cliefden Houſe, which are both ſo happily ſituated on an eminence, as to compriſe, though not one of the moſt extenſive, yet one of the moſt richly diverſified ſcenes in the kingdom.

The terrace before Cliefden Houſe is reported to be higher than that of Windſor Caſtle. Cliefden Houſe was began by George Villiers the ſecond Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles II. and is evidently copied from the plan of Burleigh on the Hill, the reſidence of the firſt Duke, his father, which plan Mr. Walpole tells us was

the defign of John Thorpe, a folio volume of whofe works are in the poffeffion of Lord Warwick.

Of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, the following lines of Pope, as they are applicable to the prefent fubject, and to the diffipated fcene exhibited on this fpot, juftly claim recital.

"On once a flock bed, but repair'd with ftraw,
"With tape-tied curtains, never meant to draw;
"The George and Garter dangling from that bed,
"Where tawdry yellow ftrove with dirty red,
"Great Villiers lies—alas! how chang'd from him,
"That life of pleafure, and that foul of whim!
"Gallant and gay, in Cliefden's proud alcove,
"The bow'r of wanton Shrewfbury and love."

The laft line alludes to an intrigue between the Countefs of Shrewfbury and the Duke of Buckingham, which occafioned a rencontre between the Duke and her hufband, in which the latter was flain. It is faid, that

the Counteſs, diſguiſed as a page, held the Duke's horſe during the combat, and afterwards ſlept with him in the ſhirt ſtained with her huſband's blood.

AFTER the death of the Duke, which happened in 1688, in the 60th year of his age, the Earl of Orkney made conſiderable improvements in this houſe, as did Frederic, the late Prince of Wales, who reſided many years on this charming ſpot. It is now in the poſſeſſion of the Earl of Inchinquin, and is occupied by his daughter the Counteſs of Orkney.

NEAR the beautiful village of Cookham, on a large ait, Sir George Young has lately finiſhed a handſome houſe, intended, I am informed, for his conſtant reſidence: delightful as the ſituation may prove in the ſummer months, the winds and floods, it is

to

to be feared, will render it uncomfortable in the winter ſeaſon.

A LITTLE below this houſe, at the foot of Cliefden Wood, riſes Cliefden ſpring, which by an eaſy deſcent forms a ſmall, yet beautiful caſcade, that gently murmuring over its gravelly bed, empties itſelf into the river Thames. To this charming retreat, (by permiſſion of the Earl of Inchinquin, to whom it belongs) ſocial parties frequently repair to take their repaſt beneath its cooling ſhade. In one of theſe convivial meetings the following lines were given as an impromptu on the ſpot; let the occaſion plead their apology.

Secure from ſummer's ſultry ray,
  Haſte hither ſwains, and with you bring
Your laſſes debonnaire and gay,
  To taſte of Cliefden's cooling ſpring.

"Here

Cliefden spring, Bucks.

Here bow'ring ſhades to love invite,
And realize the poet's dream;
Here Thames allures the raviſh'd ſight,
While murm'ring glides cool Cliefden's ſtream.

Gay Ovid of his nymphs may write
With quill freſh pluck'd from fancy's wing,
Yet here from nature I'll indite
The charms of Cliefden's cooling ſpring.

Let Horace too his nectar boaſt,
And be the juicy grape his theme,
Yet here in bev'rage cool I'll toaſt
The nymph of Cliefden's cooling ſtream.

Nor will I ſcorn young Bacchus' aid,
While ſhe is here for whom I ſing;
He ſhall beneath this fragrant ſhade
Infuſe his grape in Cliefden ſpring.

If here the ſigh of love prevails,
The dart of envy finds no ſting;
Old Thames will ſmile, and tell no tales
Of what is done at Cliefden ſpring.

Between Cliefden and Taplow is Boulters Lock, which is the laſt on the Thames, and the twenty-ſecond from Glouceſterſhire. Taplow Woods join thoſe of Cliefden, and continue near two miles in beautiful gradation towards Taplow Houſe, occupied by the Earl of Inchinquin, in whoſe park, on a beautiful eminence, ſtands a venerable oak, ſaid to have been planted by Queen Elizabeth, when in confinement here. But I rather ſuſpect it muſt have been at that period of ſufficient growth to have afforded ample ſhade to her Majeſty, in her noontide walks, which could not have been the caſe had ſhe planted it herſelf.

It is the noble remains of a very aged tree,

—— "Whoſe antique root peeps out
"Upon the brook that brawls along this wood."

The beautiful irregularity of its majeſtic limbs and foliages would form a grand ſtudy for

for a painter. The ravages which time has made on this once ſturdy oak, have been relieved with extraordinary care, by large ſheets of lead, which are nailed over the decayed parts. The ſpot on which it ſtands is happily choſen to ſolace the " mind diſ- " eaſed" amidſt the miſeries of confinement.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

ERRATA.

Page 39, l. 4, *for* what period *read* the period in which.
39, l. 7, *for* began *read* begun.
47, l. 8, *after* but *read* has.
50, l. 13, *after* viewing *insert* it.
90, l. 4, *dele* The annexed view of.
99, l. 15, *dele* h.
105, l. 12, *for* as *read* and.
117, l. 7, *for* Courtney *read* Courtenay.
123, l. 2, *for* in *read* near.
134, l. 12, *for* considerable *read* wealthy.
140, l. 11, *for* reflect *read* shews.
140, l. 13, *for* late the mansion of Sir Henry Oxenden *read* the mansion of Mr. Bush.
141, l. 5, *for* the neighbouring woods reflecting their sombre shades, *read* the neighbouring woods, whose sombre shades are reflected.
151, l. 15, *for* Yew Elm *read* Ewelm.
152, l. 13, *after* Salisbury *read* and now of Durham—*and for* has chosen *read* possesses.
169, l. 14, *for* Wiltshire *read* Wilts.
176, l. 16, *for* appears *read* as to appear.
179, l. 2, *for* eliptical *read* elliptical.
181, l. 16, *for* Farley *read* Fawley.
188, l. 14, *for* Charles *read* James.
189, l. 9, *for* exiqui *read* exigui.
190, l. 16, *for* Hurleyford *read* Harleford.
205, l. 11, *for* Inchinquin *read* Inchiquin.
208, l. 7, *for* ditto . . . *read* ditto.